4 JUNE 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Knesset Debate on Lebanon--Jerusalem radio reported that the Knesset defeated by 52 votes to 36 an Alignment motion condemning Prime Minister Begin for having committed Israel to help the Christians in Lebanon without the approval of authorized institutions in the government and Knesset. In a speech to the Knesset, broadcast live by Jerusalem radio, Labor MK Yitzhaq Rabin said Begin's commitment to use the Israeli Air Force to defend the Lebanese Christians if they were attacked by the Syrian Air Force was "deviating and dangerous" since it obligated Israel to assist the Christians against Syrian air attack no matter what the circumstances might be and since Begin had made the decision without securing the approval of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, or even informing it. Defending his decision before the Knesset in a speech--also broadcast live by the radio--Begin said the commitment made to a delegation of Lebanese Christians in August 1976 was not solely his decision but was the result of consultation involving the foreign and defense ministers. After reading the text of the Israeli commitment, Begin described it as extremely cautious and not an explicit commitment. It said Israel would consider seriously and sympathetically the Christians' request for Israeli Air Force intervention in the event of a Syrian air attack on them and stated that Israel would "probably reply positively" to such a request. Referring to Israel's message of support to the Christians during the current crisis, Begin said that at a meeting on 8 April 1981 the ministerial defense committee decided to send the Christians an oral message, not a written commitment. He quoted the message as assuring them that Israel would intervene if the Syrian Air Force attacked them. The message also said Israel will continue to supply them with arms, exercise diplomatic pressure on their behalf through the United States and deliver serious blows at the Palestinians. Begin went on to rebuke Rabin for imagining that under a tacit understanding in 1976 Israel had achieved freedom of action in Lebanese airspace. Noting the frequent albeit unsuccessful Syrian Air Force attempts to intercept Israeli planes over Lebanon since then, Begin said such an understanding had never existed. Jerusalem radio reported that after the debate Labor MK's held a news conference in which they said that Begin's version of Israel's April 1981 commitment to the Lebanese Christians differed from the previous accounts and that he had misled the Knesset over the text of the opposition motion.

Syrian Comment--The daily TISHRIN, reviewed by Damascus radio, commented today that Begin's statements to the Knesset clarify Israel's intentions in Lebanon and its motives for inciting some Lebanese factions to undermine Lebanon's unity. TISHRIN questioned Israel's claim to be the protector of the Christian communities by asking why Israel has oppressed Palestinian Christians, including the Maronites of Galilee. Israel has deliberately obstructed national accord in Lebanon by pushing the Phalangists into disrupting the security situation as soon as accord seemed likely, TISHRIN said. The radio also reported that ATH-THAWRAH criticized Secretary of State Alexander Haig's recent statement that there is a timelimit to the success of U.S. diplomatic efforts to solve the missile crisis. Haig is reconfirming that U.S. policy in the Middle East continues to reflect and express Israeli policy and acts as an instrument to achieve Israeli objectives, ATH-THAWRAH said.

Military Situation--Confirming previous reports of a 3 June Israeli naval attack on the Palestinian camp at Nahr al-Barid in northern Lebanon, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the Israeli gunboats shelled residential quarters of the refugee camp and did not destroy any naval base. Citing a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine spokesman, Damascus radio said the Israeli operation had failed to achieve its objectives since artillery fire had prevented the gunboats from approaching the coast. The Voice of Lebanon radio reported intensive Syrian shelling of Zahlah throughout the day and into the night. Tanks and rocket launchers pounded the city suburbs, and two Syrian attempts to advance were checked. Thirty people were killed or injured in Zahlah as a result of the fighting, the radio said. It also reported that the Syrians renewed shelling in

Beirut during the night and that their attempts to advance were repelled. Beirut radio confirmed the clashes in the capital last night, noting that they had ended 3 days of calm. According to the Voice of Lebanon, the Palestinians have been installing artillery and missile bases in the Ar-Rawshah area of Beirut.

Saudi Plan--According to the Voice of Palestine, the Saudi ambassador to Lebanon told a correspondent of the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD that a Saudi plan to solve the Lebanese problem calls for the removal of heavy weapons from all the disputing sides and the inclusion of the Lebanese Army in the Arab Deterrent Forces. The radio reported that the ambassador described the initiative as "very promising."

Jordan

According to Amman radio, King Husayn told U.S. and British journalists that Jordan is committed to the Tunis resolutions and will cooperate with the other Arab countries in countering any Israeli threat. The king said Jordan will not be a springboard for any attack on the Arab world and is determined to defend Jordanian territory. King Husayn described his recent talks in Moscow as "frank, clear and comprehensive" and said they dealt with all current issues in Lebanon and the Middle East. He reaffirmed that Jordan welcomes any international efforts to find a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian issue with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

Reporting on the Islamic Conference of foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad, INA said the head of the Lebanese delegation, speaking at the morning session, called on the delegates to support all efforts aimed at ending the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, restoring normality and supporting the accord process. Addressing the evening session, the head of the Bangladesh delegation affirmed that his country will continue the policy of the late President Ziaur Rahman in supporting the Islamic Conference Organization. As reported by INA, the delegate described the Iran-Iraq conflict as a "tragedy" and asserted that his country will continue to play a constructive role in the peace committee.

Iran

Yadzi Interview--Tehran radio reported that in an interview with PARS after the 2 June meeting of the three-man committee investigating differences among Iran's leaders, committee spokesman Mohammad Yazdi said the committee had received many requests for elucidation of its accusation that President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has violated the 10-point statement issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni regarding political infighting. Yazdi also gave a detailed account of how Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i had been appointed and how Bani-Sadr had tried to block the appointment. Questioned about Bani-Sadr's call for a referendum, Yadzi said the prerogative to call a referendum rested with the Majlis. Yadzi also criticized Bani-Sadr's refusal to reveal details of his assets.

Bani-Sadr Letter--According to AFP, President Bani-Sadr wrote a letter to his representative on the committee investigating differences among Iran's leaders, accusing the committee of "flagrant partiality" in its role as arbitrator of his dispute with his government rivals. AFP quoted the letter as saying the committee had become a means of censuring the president and had not taken action in the majority of cases of legal infringements brought to its attention.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 107 *4 June 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Islamic Foreign Ministers Meeting Continues A 1
3 Jun Session A 1
3 Jun Evening Session A 1
Cultural, Social Committee A 2
Chatti Press Conference A 2
AL-KHALIJ on Disputes [Ash-Shariqah 3 Jun] A 3
Saudis Said To Have Plan for Lebanese Solution [VOP] A 3
Israeli Canal Decision Draws Arab Criticism A 4
Klibi Statement A 4
PLO Appeal [VOP] A 4
VOP Comment A 5
Gulf Supreme Council's Bylaws Approved 26 May A 6
Gulf Cooperation Council Issues Working Paper A 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Islamic Conference Asked To Reproach Iran for War C 1

PDRY

'Token Military Force' To Be Sent to Syria C 2
Domestic Support Cited C 2

EGYPT

'Ali Views Talks With Begin, Israeli Withdrawal D 1
Deputy Prime Minister Leaves for U.S. Visit D 1
'Ali: President As-Sadat To Visit U.S. 4-7 Aug D 1
Cairo Reports As-Sadat-Begin Schedule for 4 Jun D 1
AL-AHRAM Comments on As-Sadat-Begin Meeting D 2
Al-AHRAM: As-Sadat, Israel's Peres To Meet 14 Jun D 2
As-Sadat Receives Arab, Islamic League Delegations D 2
As-Sadat May Interview on Democracy, Parties D 3
MAY Reports 'Rejectionist State' Subversion [1 Jun] D 11

IRAQ

President Receives Foreign Ministers 3 Jun E 1
Message From Mitterrand Received By Saddam Husayn E 1
French Envoy Departs E 1
Djibouti President Sends Message to Saddam Husayn E 2
Hammadi Meets With Turkish Foreign Minister 3 Jun E 2
Minister of Industry Receives Finnish Delegation E 2
Trade Official Leaves for Yugoslavia 4 Jun E 2
Armed Forces General Command Communique 357 E 3

LEBANON

Cabinet Meets 3 Jun; Officials' Comments Cited G 1
Mussayki, Sarkis Views G 1
Al-Wazzan Comments G 1
Information Minister Reacts to Begin Peace Call G 2
Lebanese Forces Spokesman Responds to Al-As'ad G 2
Palestinians Said To Install Missiles in Beirut G 2
Gunmen Reportedly Attack Iraqi Embassy Official G 2

SYRIA

Policy on Lebanon, Palestinians Reaffirmed H 1
Damascus Says U.S. Diplomatic Game Exposed H 1
Press Reviews Israeli Motives, Syrian Policies H 2

ISRAEL

Knesset Opens Debate on Commitment to Christians I 1
Rabin Speech I 1
Begin Speech I 4
Alignment Motion Defeated I 6
Alignment News Conference I 7
Begin Attacks FRG's Schmidt in Knesset Debate I 7
Dayan: U.S. Seeks Strengthened Al-Asad Standing [HA'ARETZ 4 Jun] I 7
Simone Veil Appeals on Behalf of Slain PLO Member I 8
Conditional Agreement I 8
Tzipori Meets With Delegation of Druze Notables I 8

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Receives Polisario Delegation 3 Jun Q 1
AFP Reports Ben Yahia in Paris for Treatment Q 1

MAURITANIA

Communique Condemns Palestinian's Assassination Q 1
Former Chief of Staff Named Transport Minister Q 2

SUDAN

Minister Hamad Reveals Numayri Arab Initiative Q 2

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

Radio Kulmis Comments on Siad's U.S. Visit R 1

UGANDA

Obote Presents Budget Speech to Parliament R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Minister Says Incident With Nigeria Not First S 1

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Communique on Nigerian Interior Minister's Visit T 1

GHANA

Limann Returns Home, Addresses Nation 30 May T 2
Embassy in Lagos Denies Athlete's Death T 4

LIBERIA

14 NCO's Arraigned for Plot Against Government T 4
Doe Suspends Senior Commerce Ministry Officials T 5

NIGERIA

Somali President Holds Talks With Shagari T 5
Deputy Governor Urges Restraint on Cameroon Issue T 6
Expansion of Oil Refinery at Warri Planned T 6
Paper Calls on OPEC To Not Use West as Bankers T 6

SENEGAL

Diouf Calls Libya Attitude to Chad 'Inadmissible' T 6

UPPER VOLTA

Foreign Minister Discusses ECOWAS Summit Results T 7

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZIMBABWE

Reports on Visiting SWAPO Leader's Activities U 1
Criticism of Britain, U.S. U 1
Bulawayo Rally Remarks U 1

ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING CONTINUES

3 Jun Session

JN031120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)--The head of the Qatari delegation today addressed the Islamic Conference foreign ministers. He reiterated his admiration and appreciation for the efforts Iraq--president and government--had exerted to bring about the success of the conference. He praised President Saddam Husayn's speech at the conference. He said that the [Iraq-Iran] war might gravely affect the stability of this area.

He asserted that the Middle East situation is a major result of Zionist enemy practices in occupying Palestine, building settlements and displacing its citizens. He added that the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon reflects the Zionist enemy desire to annex other Arab territories.

He asserted that the Palestine issue would only be solved with the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. He urged the Islamic countries to concert their efforts to achieve their aspired-for objectives.

The head of the Lebanese delegation expressed his high appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's speech at the conference in which great importance was attached to the events in the Lebanese arena and the repeated Zionist attacks on southern Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese people are not alone in their predicament and that their brothers in the Islamic and Arab worlds will not leave them alone in resisting the crisis. Our brothers will exert strenuous efforts to end the Lebanese people's tragedy, anxiety and confusion, for these are being intensified with the expansion of the crisis, a danger that menaces the entire Middle East area.

He reviewed the Zionist designs which started 10 years ago against Lebanon and which were embodied in the land, air and sea attacks on Lebanon intended to harm its sovereignty, borders, security and independence. He called for supporting all efforts aimed at ending the deterioration in the security situation in Lebanon, for restoring the normal situation and for supporting the accord process, which is being handled by the Lebanese Government with the help of the Arab brothers.

The conference adjourned its morning session and will resume its meetings later today. The four committees ended their morning sessions as well.

A responsible source of the conference said that the committees' work is proceeding well and that the discussions were fruitful and constructive and have thus far made good progress in discussing the proposed articles.

3 Jun Evening Session

JN031909 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)--The 12th session of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers held its fifth working meeting this evening under Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi foreign minister and chairman of the conference.

The head of Bangladesh delegation delivered a speech in which he greeted the Iraqi people and government under the leader the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. He stressed that his country will continue the policy of its late President Ziaur Rahman in supporting the organization and serving the Islamic world. He also expressed his country's desire to host the next foreign ministers conference in Dacca.

He highlighted President Saddam Husayn's call for the need to adhere to principles in order to achieve the Islamic world's objectives. He also called for confronting the problems and challenges facing the Islamic world and conveyed his country's concern over the situation in the Arab homeland, particularly regarding the Palestinian issue and Lebanon in light of the continued Zionist attacks against the Palestinian and Lebanese people. He stressed the need for the Zionist forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and restoration of the Palestinian peoples' rights, including the right to establish an independent state.

He pointed out that the Iraqi-Iranian conflict is a tragedy for the Islamic world and asserted that his country will continue to play a constructive role in the peace committee and will continue to facilitate this committee's work in order to reach an acceptable solution to this conflict. The head of the Bangladesh delegation called on the conference to adopt the appropriate measures to back and support the committee in its efforts to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war. He also stressed the need to implement the resolutions of the At-Ta'if Islamic Conference summit on economic affairs, including the Islamic development programs.

The head of the Sudanese delegation reiterated his country's call on both Iraq and Iran to stop fighting and to reach a just and honorable settlement of their conflict in order to spare the Muslims' blood and safeguard their potentials. He stressed his country's support for the Islamic good offices committee in its attempt to attain this objective.

He stressed Sudan's support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly their right to establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Rauf Denktas, head of the Turkish Cypriot community, delivered a speech in which he thanked Iraq for its efforts in hosting the conference. He stressed the importance of the conference in dealing with the problems of the Muslims and in enhancing the ties of cooperation and coordination among the Islamic states.

The conference then concluded its sessions for today. It will resume its meetings tomorrow morning.

Cultural, Social Committee

JN031750 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)--The Cultural and Social Committee of the 12th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers has ended discussion of all the items that were referred to it. Committee Chairman Anwar Mawlud Dhiban said that the participants approved a recommendation on the formation of an Islamic organization under the name of the Islamic Organization for Science, Technology and Development headquartered in Morocco. Its board of directors will comprise 14 Islamic countries' representatives, including Iraq.

Dhiban added that the organization, with capital of $50 million, will be entrusted with issues of energy and its sources, natural resources, water, agriculture, environment, space studies, electronic industries, engineering, solar energy and social studies.

Chatti Press Conference

JN032022 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)--Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization and official spokesman for the Islamic Conference foreign ministers, has said that the Political Committee of the conference has adopted a draft resolution on the executive measures for jihad to liberate Jerusalem in implementation of the At-Ta'if Islamic summit resolutions.

At a press conference here this evening at the end of the conference's evening session, Chatti said that consultations will be held among the organization's member states on the executive methods regarding the measures involved.

He added that the conference has formed a number of specialized committees to study the standing problems between Iraq and Iran as part of the peace efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war.

He said that the Political Committee has discussed the aspects of the Afghan issue and has adopted specific recommendations to be announced tomorrow. He said that the committee has also adopted a draft resolution on the steps to be taken to tighten the noose on the Zionist entity and fight it in the international forums, including the United Nations.

Habib Chatti said the Economic Committee has finished its discussion of all the topics referred to it by the conference and has recommended the endorsement of resolutions on bolstering economic and commercial cooperation among the Islamic states.

AL-KHALIJ on Disputes

GF040537 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 3 Jun 81 p 1

[Nasr al-Majali and Shakir al-Jawhari dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] It appears that the hot weather in Baghdad has had its effect on the meetings of the Islamic Conference foreign ministers. Hot arguments erupted among members of the Arab delegations on bilateral relations, with delegations criticizing the policies of each other's countries.

An argument broke out yesterday between the Libyan and Sudanese delegations. Libya asked for the suspension of Sudan's membership in the Islamic Conference Organization for resuming relations with As-Sadat's regime, while Sudan called for Libya's suspension for what it called Libya's constant provocations against Sudan, a member of the Islamic Conference. The Arab delegations intervened to end the argument, for such a matter should first be discussed within the Arab League framework.

The second argument took place between Libya and Saudi Arabia yesterday morning. The leader of the Libyan delegation criticized Saudi Arabia for opening its territory and airspace to foreign forces. He said: It is regrettable that Islam's holy places are under the protection of the U.S. AWACS planes. Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal replied, defending his country's stand and its commitment to Arab and Islamic solidarity: We cannot allow a foreign presence that would affect the progress of joint Arab action and Islamic solidarity.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad and Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta intervened. They defended the Saudi stand and supported the Libyan delegation's demand for the removal of all forms of foreign presence on Arab territory and keeping the region free of international conflicts. However, they asked the conference's Secretariat to delete the paragraphs in which the Libyan delegation mentions Saudi Arabia by name.

SAUDIS SAID TO HAVE PLAN FOR LEBANESE SOLUTION

JN031720 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi--'Ali ash-Sha'ir, Saudi ambassador to Lebanon, today spoke about a Saudi initiative to settle the Lebanese crisis, describing the initiative as very promising. In a statement in Beirut to the correspondent of the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD, Ash-Sha'ir added that the Saudi plan to solve the Lebanese problem boils down to removing the heavy arms from all the disputing sides and to the Lebanese Army joining the Arab Deterrent Forces, in which Saudi forces [as heard] in particular are participating. The Saudi ambassador stated that this plan also seeks to safeguard the Palestinian revolution's presence in southern Lebanon.

ISRAELI CANAL DECISION DRAWS ARAB CRITICISM

Klibi Statement

LD010600 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Text] Tunis, 1 Jun--Following the announcement by the Israeli authorities on Thursday, 28 May, that they are initiating the project of digging a canal linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea across occupied Arab territory north of the Gaza sector, the secretary general of the Arab League issued a statement in which he noted that this new Israeli action is in violation of international laws and practices. It also violates the basic interests of the Arab nation and directly affects the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan. It will cause serious geographical, climatic, demographic and economic changes in the area and will affect in particular the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples in addition to causing damage to sacred Christian shrines along the banks of the Jordan River.

Chedli Klibi added that this new Israeli challenge has been accompanied by operations of extermination mounted against the Palestinian and the Lebanese peoples, manifested in barbarous acts of bombing and aggression which have claimed a large number of innocent victims. It also accompanies a new invention in the concept of security under which Israel reserves the right to commit free and unhindered attacks and arrogantly and contemptuously condemns the right of the aggrieved to repel this aggression.

The Arab League secretary general has drawn the attention of world public opinion to the gravity of this new Israeli violation of Arab rights, despite the economic facade behind which Israel is trying to hide its military and colonization aims. He expressed the hope that financial, technical and executive companies and organizations will not participate in the project out of legal and moral considerations, and for the sake of continuing their relations and dealings with the Arab states whose ministerial council made a unanimous decision in March on this matter.

On the basis of that decision and in implementation of the boycott rules and principles, the secretary general has decided to immediately call for convening an urgent and emergency conference of liaison officers of the boycott organs to lay down arrangements that should be followed firmly and resolutely (?in this connection). The Secretariat General also is taking other steps and measures in various international fields.

PLO Appeal

JN301547 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 May 81

[Text] The PLO today called on the world's peace-loving states to shoulder their responsibilities and to promptly work for stopping the Zionist enemy's implementation of his plans to construct a canal between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas through a wide strip of territory in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO Political Department called on the world's states to promptly hold a meeting of these states' coordination bureau in order to submit the issue to it. It also called on the Islamic Conference foreign ministers to submit and include the issue within the agenda of their meeting in Baghdad. It also called on the Arab states to hold an emergency session of the Arab League to discuss the issue, which constitutes a big challenge by the Zionist enemy to the Arab will as well as insistence on changing the landmarks of the occupied Arab territories and confiscating them by force.

The PLO Political Department has also sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general calling on him to shoulder his responsibilities. It also condemned this aggressive act because of its immense violation of international laws, norms and characters, particularly those pertaining to the occupied territories.

VOP Comment

JN311749 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 May 81

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Only Arab cannons can foil the Zionist project to dig a canal between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. The canal of the two seas--the name of the Zionist scheme to dig a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea--this project, which was inaugurated by enemy Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 22 May, entails various dangers to occupied Palestine and Jordan in particular and the Arab nation in general. Its gravity goes beyond the dangers which emerged in 1964 when Israel began to divert the waters of the Jordan River to the occupied Negev, driving the late leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir to call for an Arab summit conference.

What is the nature of this project?

1. This Zionist project is based on digging a canal between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas across the occupied Gaza Strip. It is expected to take 8 to 9 years and will cost $800 million.
2. The canal passes through thousands of donums of land in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Nuclear power stations will be built at the mouth of the canal.

What are the dangers inherent in this project?

1. Geographic and demographic changes will be made in occupied Palestine, particularly in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in accordance with the long-range settlement policy.
2. The project will flood the potash basins costing Jordan $600 million. It will also lower the rate of production of potash from the Dead Sea.
3. Large tracts of arable land will be flooded on the two sides of the Ghor Valley when the water level rises. Official Jordanian sources have said that the project will harm agricultural investments amounting to $6 billion.
4. There is a danger of water and crop pollution from nuclear waste as a result of using the canal's waters for generating nuclear energy.

These are the economic dangers inherent in the project. This prompted the PLO to move on all Arab and international levels to confront this scheme. Within the context of this move, the PLO Political Department called for an urgent Arab League meeting to discuss the project on the pan-Arab level and to prepare ways to confront it.

This serious problem, which is threatening the Arab nation, brings to mind the events of diverting the waters of the Jordan River to the Negev in the 1960's, when Israel hit the Arab diversion projects inside Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. These events confirm that the tackling of such a serious project should not stop at protest and denunciation. This danger, which is threatening the Jordanian people's national product as well as the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, can only be confronted with force and the destruction of the work and diversion sites which are within range of the Arab guns. Just as Zionist planes destroyed the Khalid ibn Walid Dam site in 1964, the Arab guns should destroy the project of the two seas.

On the diplomatic and political levels, right is already on the side of the Arabs, in accordance with international law which does not permit the exploitation of natural resources without the approval of all sides. The Arabs are required to open the military fronts. Only these fronts can prevent the enemy from starting projects near the front, projects which can only be established in circumstances of peace or surrender.

GULF SUPREME COUNCIL'S BYLAWS APPROVED 26 MAY

JN261634 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 May (GNA)--During their closed meeting today, the heads of the six Gulf states participating in the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council approved the bylaws of the Supreme Council, which is the supreme authority of the Cooperation Council and one of its three main organs, in addition to the Ministerial Council and the General Secretariat. The following is the text of the Supreme Council's bylaws:

Article One: The following shall be called the Bylaws of the Supreme Council of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council. They contain the rules regulating the convocation of the council and the exercise of its tasks.

Article Two: The Supreme Council's Membership and Tasks

1. The Supreme Council shall consist of the heads of the Cooperation Councils' member states. Its presidency shall be periodic in accordance with the alphabetical order of the names of these states.
2. Every member state shall notify the secretary general of the names of its delegates to the council's meeting at least 7 days before its opening date.

Article Three: Taking into consideration the Cooperation Council's aims and the Supreme Council's jurisdictions as stipulated in articles four and eight of the statutes, the council shall perform the following:

1. To form technical committees and choose its members from member states' nominees, who are specialized in these committees' fields of work.
2. To entrust one or more of its members with the task of studying a certain subject and submit a report about it to be distributed among the members sometime before the session is held to discuss it.

Article Four: The Convocation of the Supreme Council

1. A. The Supreme Council shall hold two ordinary sessions a year. Extraordinary sessions can be held upon the request of any member with the second of another member.
B. The Supreme Council shall hold its sessions on the level of the heads of state.
C. The Supreme Council shall hold its sessions in the countries of the member states.
D. Before the convocation of the Supreme Council, the secretary general shall call for a meeting to be attended by the representatives of the member states in order to hold consultations about the affairs concerning the session's work.

2. A. The secretary general shall fix the dates the sessions shall begin. He shall also propose the dates they shall end.
B. The secretary general shall address invitations to attend the ordinary session at least 30 days before the convocation date and 5 days at most before the convocation of an extraordinary session.

Article Five:

1. The Supreme Council shall decide whether the sessions will be secret or public at the beginning of every session.
2. The Supreme Council's convocation shall be sound if it is attended by the heads of two-thirds of the member states. It shall adopt its decisions on objective issues by the unanimous vote of the states present and on procedural affairs by the majority. The members who abstains from voting must record that he will not abide by the decision.

Article Six:

1. The Supreme Council shall hold an extraordinary session:

A. Upon a decision adopted at a previous session.
B. Upon the request of a member state and the approval of another. In this case, the council shall convene within 5 days after the invitation for the extraordinary session.

2. The agenda of the extraordinary sessions shall not include topics other than those for which they were held

Article Seven: Supreme Council Presidency

1. At the beginning of every ordinary session, the presidency of the Supreme Council shall be alternately assumed by the heads of member states in accordance with the alphabetical order of the names of the countries. The president shall continue exercising the functions of the presidency until his successor assumes this responsibility at the beginning of the next ordinary session.
2. The head of a state which is party to an existing conflict cannot preside over the session or the meeting devoted to the discussion of this conflict. In this case, the council shall appoint a temporary president.
3. The president shall open and close the sessions or meetings, suspend sessions, decide when to end the discussions, guarantee respect for the Gulf Cooperation Council's statutes, give the floor to those who ask for it first, submit proposals on which opinions are to be given, direct the operation of voting, decide on various points of the statutes, announce resolutions, follow up the work of the committees and inform the council about the letters it receives.
4. The president shall have the right to participate in deliberations and discussions on behalf of the country he represents. He shall also have the right to delegate a member of his delegation for this purpose.

Article Eight: The Supreme Council's Agenda

1. The Ministerial Council shall prepare the Supreme Council's draft agenda and the secretary general shall communicate it to the member states with explanatory memorandums, documents and the letter inviting the council to convene, at least 30 days before the date of convening the council.

2. The draft agenda shall contain:

A. The secretary general's report on the Supreme Council's work during the period that falls between the two sessions and the measures taken to implement its decisions.
B. Reports and topics coming from the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat General.
C. Topics that the Supreme Council had previously decided to list on its agenda.
D. Topics proposed by a member state which it considers as necessary to be discussed by the Supreme Council.

3. Each member state shall have the right to list additional topics on the Supreme Council's draft agenda at least 15 days before the set date of the council's session. These topics will be listed in an additional agenda that will be sent to the member states along with their documents at least 5 days before the date of the session.
4. Any member state shall have the right to list additional topics to the session's agenda until the date that has been set for its opening if these topics are the same time important and urgent.
5. The council approves its agenda at the beginning of every session.
6. The council shall have the right to list additional topics to the agenda during the session if they are urgent.
7. The ordinary session shall end after the completion of the discussion of the items listed on the agenda. The Supreme Council shall have the right to suspend the meetings of the session temporarily before having completed the discussion of the agenda and to resume the meetings at a later date.

Article Nine: The Supreme Council's Bureau and Committees

1. The Supreme Council's Bureau shall consist, at every ordinary session, of the council's chairman, the chairman of the Ministerial Council and the secretary general. The chairman of the Supreme Council shall preside over the bureau.
2. The bureau shall assume the following tasks:
   A. A review of the formulation of the resolutions that are adopted by the Supreme Council without changing their content.
   B. The task of assisting the Supreme Council chairman in the management of the session in a general manner.
   C. Other tasks that are contained in the statutes or those which are entrusted to the bureau by the Supreme Council.

Article Ten:

1. At the outset of every ordinary session, the council shall form the committees it deems necessary and in such a way that the opportunity is given for making a detailed study of the issues on the agenda. Representatives from the member states shall participate in the work of these committees.
2. The committees' meetings shall continue in order to complete their work, taking into consideration the specific date for ending the session. The committees shall issue their resolutions with majority votes.
3. Every committee shall begin its work with the election of a chairman and rapporteur from among its members. If the chairman is absent he shall be represented by the committee's rapporteur who shall manage its sessions. If the chairman is absent, his representative or the rapporteur shall give the council all the required clarifications on the contents of the committee's report. The rapporteur or chairman's representative can, with the approval of the chairman of the session, participate in the deliberations without voting, unless he is a member of the council.
4. The council shall refer issues listed on the agenda to committee in accordance with their specialization in order to have them study these issues and prepare reports on them. An issue can be referred to more than one committee.
5. The committees cannot discuss any issue unless it is referred to them by the council. The committees also cannot adopt any recommendations on any issue that is listed on their agenda and whose adoption entails a financial commitment by the council before they receive a report from the secretary general on the financial and aministrative effects pertaining to the adoption of these recommendations.

Article Eleven: The Progress of Deliberations and Proposals

1. Each member state shall have the right to participate in the deliberations of the Supreme Council and its committees in accordance with the statutes.
2. The chairman directs the deliberations on the issues to be discussed according to their order in the session's agenda. When necessary the chairman can invite the secretary general or the person who represents him at the meeting to clarify what he considers necessary.
3. The chairman yields the floor in accordance with requests made. The floor may be given to the chairman or rapporteur of a committee to submit the committee's report or explain points contained in it.
4. Any member can raise a point of the statutes during the deliberations on which the chairman shall immediately decide. The chairman's decision will be executed unless it is reversed by a majority vote of the Supreme Council.

Article Twelve:

1. During the discussion of any issue, any member can propose the suspension or postponement of the session, the postponement of the discussion of the issue in question or the ending of discussion. The proposal shall not be the subject for discussion but shall be submitted to a vote by the chairman if it is seconded by another member. The adoption of this proposal shall be made with a majority vote of member states.

2. Taking into consideration the contents of paragraph four, article eleven, proposals made in accordance with paragraph one this article shall be given preference to all other points preceding them according to the following order:

A. the suspension of the session
B. the postponement of the session
C. ending discussion of the issue under discussion

3. Excluding proposals on formulation and on procedural matters, draft resolutions and fundamental amendments shall be submitted in writing to the secretary general or to the person who represents him for distribution to the delegations as soon as possible. The discussion of a draft resolution or its submission to a vote cannot take place before the distribution of their test to all the delegations.
4. Any proposal on which a decision has been taken during the same session cannot be reconsidered unless the council decides otherwise.

Article Thirteen: The chairman shall follow up the committees' work, inform the Supreme Council of the messages received by it and officially announce before the members the recommendations reached.

Article Fourteen: Voting

Each member state shall have one vote and no state shall represent another state or vote for it.

Article Fifteen:

1. Voting shall be made by calling the name in accordance with the alphabetical order of the states' names or by raising the hand. Voting shall be in the form of a secret ballot if asked to be so by a member or upon a decision by the chairman. The Supreme Council shall have the right to decide otherwise and to write down in the session's minutes the vote of every member if the ballot is made by calling the roll. The result of the ballot shall be included in the minutes if the ballot is secret or made by raising hand.
2. Every member shall have the right to abstain from voting or to express a reservation about a procedural decision or part of it. The reservation shall be read out when the decision is announced and shall be written down. The members shall have the right to explain their stands toward the voting when said voting ends.
3. Once the chairman announces the beginning of voting, no one shall interrupt him unless this interruption pertains to a legal point concerning the voting.

Article Sixteen:

1. If a member asks for the amendment of a proposal, a vote shall be held first on this amendment. Should there be more than one amendment, voting will begin on the amendment whose subject is seen by the chairman as furthest detached from that of the original amendment. Voting shall then be on the amendment next furthest detached and so forth until all proposed amendments are voted upon. If one or more amendment is approved, the amended original proposal shall then be voted upon.
2. Any new proposal shall be considered an amendment of the original proposal if it includes the mere addition, omission or change of any part of the original proposal.

Article Seventeen:

1. The Supreme Council shall form technical committees entrusted with the task of offering consultation in the preparation and implementation of the Supreme Council's programs in certain fields.
2. The Supreme Council shall appoint the technical committees' members from among the specialist citizens of the member states.

3. The technical committees shall meet upon the invitation of the secretary general and shall prepare their working plan through consultations with him.
4. The secretary general shall draw up the technical committees' agenda after consultations with the competent committee's chairman.

Article Eighteen: Amendment of the Bylaws

1. Every state has the right to suggest the amendment of these bylaws.
2. It is impermissible to examine the request to amend the bylaws unless the proposal regarding this amendment is sent to the member states by the General Secretariat at least 30 days before submitting it to the Ministerial Council.
3. It is impermissible to introduce any basic changes on the amendment proposal as cited in the previous paragraph unless the text of these proposed changes has been sent to the member states by the General Secretariat at least 15 days before it is submitted to the Ministerial Council.
4. With the exception of the articles based on the provisions of the statutes, taking into consideration the above-mentioned paragraphs, these bylaws are amended by a decision adopted by the Supreme Council upon the approval of the majority of its members.

Article Nineteen: The Validity of the Bylaws

These bylaws shall be valid as of the date they are approved by the Supreme Council. They shall not be amended except in accordance with the measures cited in the previous article.

These bylaws have been signed in the city of Abu Dhabi in the UAE on 22 Rajab 1401 Hegira, corresponding to 26 May 1981.

The United Arab Emirates
The State of Bahrain
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
The Sultanate of Oman
The State of Qatar
The State of Kuwait

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL ISSUES WORKING PAPER

JN270919 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 May (GNA)--The full text of the working paper on joint Gulf action, which was appended to the final statement issued this evening at the end of the first summit conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council, was published here today. The following is the full text of the working paper:

The emergence of the council for cooperation among the Gulf states is in response to the historical, social, cultural, political and strategic reality through which the Gulf region passed and is passing. The need for such a council is more urgent at present than ever before for the good of the peoples of the region.

The natural solidarity which links the Arab states in the Gulf merits appearance in a joint framework after all the positive and effective bilateral and collective measures adopted to date. It also merits better, clearer channeling in the interest of the peoples of the region.

The contemporary trend is toward big political and economic unities for the preservation of stability and security and to bridge the gaps into which many countries in other parts of the world have fallen, learning a lesson after paying dearly in blood, men and money. These gaps are the presence of inconclusive, long-standing territorial disputes in which energies and efforts are wasted and peoples lose a great deal.

If challenges are enough to create effective cooperation in any part of the world, the circumstances of the Gulf region are even more opportune for such cooperation. We constitute part of an ethnicity which has one religion, a joint civilization and joint values and customs. Moreover, our geographical location and oil resources make us vulnerable to international and political designs which almost amount to blackmail. This urges us all toward joint cooperation.

Today's world emphasizes the importance of links between nations. Hence, the regional merger, particularly in the Gulf region, will be an aid and support to the objectives of the Arab and Islamic nation, and becomes more urgent and a local demand in this historical phase.

Effective mobilization of resources and expertise in building a Gulf organization will enhance the situation and will render the organization worthy of transporting this Arab region to balanced developmental horizons, benefiting all the sons of the region in general and the Arabs in particular.

The challenges confronting this region are increasing as the industrialized world's need for oil increases. Gulf merger has become [words indistinct] toward a new, broad tendency to formulate an economic and political [word indistinct] which will keep the region away from international competition and bargaining. International designs will not be able to find a foothold in a merged region which has one voice, opinion and strength. However, they will be able to find a thousand footholds if this region, which is rich in oil and men, remains made up of small entities that can be easily victimized.

Talk of "the power vacuum" in the region and the resource which has no owners can end forever if the rightful owners firmly and resolutely perform their collective role.

The Cooperation Council countries can jointly have a say in the international and regional fields, which will express its respected and feared place in the world economy in the relations of these countries with east, west, north and south. These countries can also provide active support for the causes of the Arab nation.

Arab union, since the dawn of Arab liberation after the World War II, has been the center of the attention of the Arab peoples. Positive steps in that direction have sprung up in an area which embraced Islam, sheltered Arabism and has been safeguarding pan-Arab interests since the beginning of history.

The real and hard tasks which await us should be faced collectively. The oil on which we are relying at present is an exhaustible wealth. It generated huge wealth in the past decade but it also generated high tension and changes in human behavior. The peoples of the Gulf look to their governments to solve the difficult equation of achieving real development on the one hand, and safeguarding social peace, security and progress on the other.

This equation cannot be solved unless we study our priorities with farsightedness: the establishment of a comprehensive development that stands upon a firm foundation and a solid base of production on the one hand, and the training of manpower, which is the more important capital, on the other. We should answer the important question of how to transform oil into comprehensive and stable development in the interest of our peoples. The historic opportunity to make our choice is available to us now, but it may not be available in the future. The embryo of the industrial revolution was the naval compass, gunpowder and printing. Now, however, humanity is pushing into space and the development of modern nuclear physics, using fast and direct communications. Whoever lags behind remains among the backward states and nations. Briefly, it is an age of scientific breakthroughs which dictate the use of scientific tools in political, economic, industrial and educational affairs. The first priority of this organized scientific thinking is for us to reach a genuine and comprehensive merger in the economic, social and political fields.

These are the challenges facing us. Through sound merger plans among our countries and peoples, we can face these challenges, nurture our material and human investments and achieve comprehensive development for our peoples in a fair and wise manner. Furthermore, as a group, we can contribute to the efforts for peace in the world, which is turbulent.

In order to achieve and implement these aims, the council decided to form the following committees made up of the competent ministers. These committees will have temporary tasks and will cooperate and coordinate with the General Secretariat. They will begin their work in accordance with the dates proposed by the secretary general:

I. The Committee for Economic and Social Planning

This committee will devise and coordinate joint action in economic and social planning to achieve homogeneity among the national economic plans and draw up bases for future integrated planning in order to bring about economic integration among the member states.

II. The Committee for Financial, Economic and Trade Cooperation

This committee will study ways to coordinate financial and economic cooperation in light of the general aims of joint economic action. Among its functions are:

A. Financial and monetary cooperation:

1. Seeking to standardize laws and regulations governing investment in order to draw up a common investment policy that will gear external and internal Gulf investment to the interests of these states and the aspirations of their peoples for development and progress.
2. Coordinating banking and monetary policies and enhancing coordination among the monetary establishments and central banks in these states in order to come out with a standard Gulf currency that will complete the aspired for economic integration.
3. Coordinating financial and monetary policies of the member states on the external level in the field of extending international and regional aid for development.

B. Transfer of funds and individuals and the exercise of economic activity:

1. Drawing up bases for the treatment of subjects of the Cooperation Council member states without any discrimination in any of these states, in accordance with what is agreed upon in the following domains:

   a. freedom of movement, work and residence;
   b. freedom of ownership, inheritance and bequests;
   c. freedom of exercise of economic activity.

2. Seeking to remove the obstacles which impede the movement of revenues and capital and coordinating and unifying trade, financial and customs regulations in a manner that gives similar treatment to the subjects of the member states in all the states.
3. Encouraging the private sector in the member states to establish joint projects and companies in order to tie together the economic interests of the citizens in all fields.

C. Trade exchange:

1. Seeking to lift the customs barriers among the member states of this council regarding their products and seeking to standardize a customs tariff between these states and the outside world.

2. Applying the principle of total exemption from customs duties levied on the local products of the member states and treating these products as national commodities.
3. Coordinating the policies of import, export and food reserves.
4. Creating a collective negotiating force in the field of export and import.

D. Transport and communications:

1. Cooperating in the field of sea and land transport and communications and coordinating on the establishment of construction projects--such as buildings, airports, water stations, power stations and roads--and developing existing establishments in these spheres.
2. Seeking to coordinate aviation and air transport policies among the council's member states.

III. The Committee for Industrial Cooperation

This body will be entrusted with the following:

A. Coordinating industrial activity among the member states by formulating policies and proposing ways to bring about industrial transformation in the member states on the basis of an integration that insures the highest benefit to each state and provides reassurance and prosperity to all their peoples.

B. Studying the standardization of the industrial laws and regulations of the member states.

C. Seeking to channel local production toward meeting the needs of the member states.

D. Preparing laws and regulations for the importation of technology and expertise and choosing the most suitable in light of the objectives and requisites of development in the member states.

E. Distributing industry in the member states by encouraging the establishment of industries. Accordance with economic feasibility, that complement the essential projects distributed in the member states.

F. Formulating policies and implementing integrated programs for training and technical, vocational and artisan rehabilitation on all levels and at all stages among the member states.

IV. The Oil Committee

This committee will be formed of the foreign, oil and finance ministers and will undertake the following:

A. Coordinate the policies of the council's members in the field of oil industry in all its stages of drilling, refining, marketing and pricing; transporting and exploiting natural gas; and developing sources of energy.

B. Draw up a unified oil policy and joint stands toward the outside world and international organizations.

V. The Committee for Social and Cultural Services

This committee will devise scopes for joint action in the fields of education, health, labor, social affairs and culture and will draw up bases for their integration and homogeneity.

The secretary general calls on the finance and economy ministers to draw up a unified economic agreement to replace the current bilateral agreements, in accordance with the principles agreed upon during their meetings in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on 16 Rajab 1401 Hegira, corresponding to 20 May 1981. This should be accomplished within the next 2 months and will be referred to the Ministerial Council, which will submit it to the Supreme Council at its next session.

KUWAIT

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ASKED TO REPROACH IRAN FOR WAR

GF021245 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 1 Jun 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference and the Iraq-Iran War"]

[Text] The Islamic Conference foreign ministers meeting opens in Baghdad today to discuss its agenda, which is crowded with articles and issues. However, we must consider two problems that we believe are the main points on the conference's agenda. The two problems are the Iraq-Iran war and the Lebanese question, including the Israeli war of annihilation that is being carried out against the Palestinian people, and the preparations for an Israeli military attack against Syria.

It should be clear to everyone and to the foreign ministers of the Islamic states in particular that regarding the first point, the Iranian side is not seeking to achieve peace or to preserve the blood of Muslims. This is evident from the fact that it has been denying Iraq its patriotic rights and has refused to accept any discussion on this issue by ignoring all international and Islamic mediation efforts, including that of the nonaligned countries, and the special Arab mediation attempts.

The issue seems more serious when we realize that the dubious Iranian stand continues at a time when Israeli attacks against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon are escalating and the war between Syria and Israel is drawing nearer. There is no doubt that this is serving Israeli-U.S. goals and is giving them an opportunity they would never have enjoyed if Iraq had been free from the burden of this war on its eastern border. Iran insists on continuing the war without any logical justification.

The Islamic Conference's stand on this issue must be clear. It must make Iran realize that it has gone against the entire Islamic community and that by continuing to do so it is serving Israel's aggressive plans against Muslims, Arabs and their holy shrines.

As a result of this deplorable situation, Washington's spoiled old man, Menahem Begin, deliberately announced last night--on the evening prior to the opening of the conference --that Jerusalem is definitely the united and permanent capital of Israel. He meant to challenge all those who have come to meet in Baghdad and to say to them: If you are truthful, reach an agreement among yourselves. He further humiliated them by saying: Who are you, and what do you value? You are even unable to stop a fight between you. He added: Because of the way you are, Jerusalem will remain Israel's permanent capital.

Of course, the question is what should we say? What can we who are meeting at this conference, especially the Arabs, say to this arrogant terrorist?

Shall we replay the denunciation statements and eulogy poems and weep for the remains of the world, or are we going to continue our sleep, as usual, disregarding these disputes between this party and the other and allow the defeats and losses to continue?

Wrongdoing is inherent, and we must expose it. We must tell the wrongdoer he is wrong and tell the one who is involved that he is involved. We must tell the one who is involved that he is involved. We must tell those who are offensive that they are offensive. By doing this, we can begin the march of truth and power. In this way alone can we get ourselves out of this backward, suicidal and rapacious situation.

The Islamic Conference foreign ministers must tell Tehran openly that it is wrong and that it is embroiling itself and is committing an offense by continuing this war against Iraq. As long as the Iraqi right is obvious and definite, why is this war continuing? Is this war aimed at pulling Iraq away from its real role on the eastern front of Palestine? Is its continuation aimed at helping the Camp David parties to implement their remaining conspiracies and objectives against the Arabs and the Muslims?

PDRY

'TOKEN MILITARY FORCE' TO BE SENT TO SYRIA

LD031550 Aden ANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Excerpt] Aden, 3 Jun (ANA)--The PDRY Government will send a token military force to sister Syria in order to support it and consolidate its steadfastness in its struggle against the imperialist Zionist enemy. This was announced by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, in a statement he made at the end of his visit to Syria during which he delivered a letter from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Brother Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, informing the leadership of the fraternal Syrian people of this decision. [passage omitted reasserting PDRY's support for Syria and referring to the minister's visit to YAR.]

Domestic Support Cited

LD031714 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Jun 81 EA

[Text] National liberation movements and progressive parties accredited in Aden have described Democratic Yemen's decision to send token military forces to sisterly Syria as a revolutionary step and a true expression of the principled revolutionary stands of the immortal 14 October revolution and its vanguard--the great YSP. It is a clear indication of the great and important role being played by Democratic Yemen to reinforce and strengthen the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, through its effective contribution and participation in supporting and reinforcing the steadfastness of Syria--the Arab fortress for challenging the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary designs and intrigues. This was said in a solidarity cable sent today by the national liberation movements and progressive parties accredited in Aden to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and of the Council of Ministers.

The liberation movements and progressive parties stressed their unqualified support for the revolutionary decision taken by our country, to send token military forces to reinforce not only the steadfastness of Syria in its conflict with imperialism and Zionism but also the Arab steadfastness against the challenges facing the Arab nation in this stage of its history, so full of heroic struggles against its enemies.

The solidarity cable hailed the revolutionary gains made in Democratic Yemen, Syria and the Arab nation and the steadfastness of the Palestine revolution and the Lebanese National Movement against the Zionist forces.

'ALI VIEWS TALKS WITH BEGIN, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

NC031638 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that Egypt's delegation to the talks with Menahem Begin tomorrow will work for the nonescalation of the situation in Lebanon and for the prevention of a bigger conflict that would affect the peace process and enable certain foreign forces to intervene, to the detriment of the cause of peace. Discussion, he said, will also cover bilateral relations between the two countries. Some of the Egyptian delegation members will visit the areas from which Israel will withdraw.

'Ali emphasized that what has applied to the first phase of withdrawal, whether military, civilian or relating to installations and settlements, will apply to the rest of Sinai, including the settlements and installations. This matter, he said, is not subject to discussion. All there is to it, he added, is that agreement will be reached before the final withdrawal on the method of taking over these installations and what might be owned by the Israelis in the area and compensation for them so that these installations will be maintained and continue to operate.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR U.S. VISIT

NC031050 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid left Cairo today on his way to the United States for a 5-day visit during which he will deliver a lecture at the Weizmann Scientific Institute in Los Angeles on the investment and development sectors in Egypt.

On 9 June, Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid will leave for the PRC as head of an Egyptian delegation that will hold talks there. During the visit to the PRC, a trade protocol between the two countries will be signed. He will also discuss the possibility of obtaining a loan with easy terms from the PRC to be used for building Al-Qasr al-'Ayni and China's participation in establishing a large conference hall.

'ALI: PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TO VISIT U.S. 4-7 AUG

NC041008 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that President Anwar as-Sadat will visit the United States from 4 to 7 August.

CAIRO REPORTS AS-SADAT-BEGIN SCHEDULE FOR 4 JUN

NC031855 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will hold their first round of talks at 1000 [0800 GMT] tomorrow in Sharm ash-Shaykh. This will be followed by a working luncheon. The second round of talks will be held at 1400. At the end of this second round President as-Sadat and Menahem Begin will hold a press conference on the results of the Egyptian-Israeli talks. President as-Sadat will be accompanied at the Sharm ash-Shaykh talks by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the ministers of presidential affairs, tourism and housing and the National Democratic Party's chief of popular development.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT-BEGIN MEETING

NC030850 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 3 Jun 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article on the Sharm ash-Shaykh meeting, AL-AHRAM writes: Egypt has prepared for President Anwar as-Sadat's meeting with Menahem Begin in Sharm ash-Shaykh tomorrow by announcing its hope that the meeting will result in defining the ways and means that will lead to the establishment of peace in the Middle East. With this spirit and against the background of strategic changes, President Anwar as-Sadat is going tomorrow to the Egyptian port from which Israel will withdraw in a few months in order to confirm to the world and to the rejectionists that Sharm ash-Shaykh, which was a seeming reason for the 1967 war, has become the venue for a summit meeting with Menahem Begin to draw up the strategy of peace and not the strategy of war.

The paper adds: It is possible to achieve a great deal in the Egyptian-Israeli arena--in fact, it is possible to achieve the impossible. This iron will that established peace between the strongest two countries in the area must inevitably overcome all the calls for war made by the rejectionist capitals. Some segments of the people and the ruling party in Israel are still reiterating them in fear of peace and out of a desire to maintain the tension. However, a sincere desire for peace can give impetus to the possibilities of achieving security and stability in the area--in Lebanon, the West Bank or the Golan--and can achieve reconciliation between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

AL-AHRAM adds: The Lebanese situation, which is explosive and full of possibilities and contradictions, will be a test. Menahem Begin will have a historic responsibility when he meets with President Anwar as-Sadat in Sharm ash-Shaykh. In view of the objective circumstances through which Lebanon is now passing, Cairo hopes that the Israeli prime minister will announce a decision suspending all military and nonmilitary actions and intervention in Lebanon and that all other intervention by irresponsible parties in this torn Arab state will also stop.

AL-AHRAM: AS-SADAT, ISRAEL'S PERES TO MEET 14 JUN

NC022251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)--AL-AHRAM reports that President Anwar as-Sadat will meet with Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres on 14 June. In reporting this in tomorrow's edition, the paper adds that the meeting is expected to take place in Alexandria.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES ARAB, ISLAMIC LEAGUE DELEGATIONS

NC032035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Jun (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat welcomed the delegations to the second session of the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples Constituent Assembly during his meeting with the heads of these delegations today. President as-Sadat said: With the establishment of this league and with the publication of the magazine AL-'URHAH AL-WUTHQA we have resumed what the two Islamic leaders Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani and Muhammad 'Abduh began toward unifying the Islamic world and upholding the tolerant Islamic call.

Ahmad as-Sayyid Hamid, head of the Sudanese delegation and chairman of the second session of the Constituent Assembly delivered a speech in which he lauded the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples and praised President as-Sadat's role in establishing it and in strengthening relations among the Islamic and Arab peoples.

The meeting between President as-Sadat and the heads of the delegations, which are 24 delegations representing the Muslims of the African and Asian states and of North America, was attended by Dr Sayyid Nawfal, secretary general of the League of Islamic and Arab Peoples.

AS-SADAT MAY INTERVIEW ON DEMOCRACY, PARTIES

LD271457 Cairo MAY in Arabic 11 May 81 p 3

[President Anwar as-Sadat weekly interview with Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah]

[Text] Question: The presidential powers delegated to the provincial governors still leave much to be desired. Some of the governors say: "It is true that I have presidential powers, but they are not carried out. Where are the presidential resources, without which I cannot move and can do nothing?"

Answer: First, I would like to speak about the reason for delegating presidential powers to the governors. No two persons disagree that the source of our problem is maladministration and that in the recent past voices were raised calling for the need to launch an administrative revolution that would shake our offices.

Of course, the purpose of this revolution is to wipe out what is called bureaucracy. Perhaps you would recall that in Alexandria stadium I called for demolishing this bureaucracy; it is inconceivable that we should all be suffering from this bureaucracy and not think of demolishing it.

The second thing that prompted me to consider delegating powers from the capital to the provinces is the concentrated centralization we pursue in all our affairs. I would not be exaggerating to say that we have been practicing their centralization since the pharaohs. Actions derived from such bureaucracy, which is with us to this day, are tragicomic. For example, if an elementary school in a remote village needs to buy a water jar to replace an old one which is broken, the decision to buy the new jar is not made by the headmaster, the district educational officer in the province or the provincial governor himself. Instead, the school writes to the director of education in Cairo stating its request so that the director will order the deputy minister to set up a purchasing committee under his chairmanship. The committee will seek the best offer before deciding the final purchase of the water jar.

Of course, the water jar is only a joke to poke fun at the extreme centralization which some people are still practicing and maintaining as a tradition. Therefore, in January 1979 I decided to end this centralization. I do not claim that I invented anything new in this regard. The decentralization system is followed by all the civilized communities that we aspire to catch up with and whose high standard of internal administration we wish to emulate.

When some governors say that presidential powers have been delegated to them but they are not being carried out, I regret to say to these people that they are "impotent" in the full sense of the word. Not only that, but I also believe that a person like that should not remain in office.

Question: You probably mean that some of them issue orders but do not put them into effect unless they are approved by a senior official in Cairo, and therefore feel that they indeed have the powers of a president but do not carry them out.

Answer: By my decision I aimed at giving a great push to the administrative revolution which we all demand. I believe that it is very difficult for this experiment to succeed unless every governor exercises all the powers given him.

It is inconceivable that we should decide to give a governor presidential powers and then not give him the full opportunity to exercise them, to prove himself, and to issue orders without returning to the capital. I told the governors more than once that they must adhere to the presidential powers and must not wait for orders or directives from any official other than the prime minister, who should be consulted on important subjects on which it is necessary to obtain his views, when there are difficulties in implementing vital projects in the province or when the governor is unable to overcome such difficulties for reasons beyond his control.

I also told them that they must promote the well-being of the inhabitants of their provinces and build their communities in the manner which they devise themselves. What more do you want than this? In my view the governor who gives the excuse of lack of resources is not a suitable governor and is impotent.

Question: You have previously warned the governors against allowing any tampering with prices and said that the governor is responsible for preventing the exploitation of wage increases by some people to raise commodity prices. Is it easy for the governor to prevent all this?

Answer: Of course, it is very easy. For example, we find that in the question of fixing prices every governor has, in this case, powers which even the president does not have. In other words, farming land falls within the governor's province. The farmers who serve, sow and harvest the land are inhabitants of his province. More than 90 percent of the meat that the citizens eat comes from the farmers and not from the fattening and cattle-breeding stations. These stations provide only a small proportion of meat production, while the major part comes from the farmer who breeds cows or water buffaloes on his land and sells their products.

This means that vegetables are grown in the province and meat is produced and sold within the province. How then can the governor not control the prices within his province? What is said about meat and vegetables can also be said about eggs and poultry. I can never imagine a governor seeing tampering with prices and the hiking of commodity prices in his province without immediately intervening to stop such exploitation. I will never allow the governor to permit the sale of one kilogram of beans, sold by the farmer for 10 piasters, to be sold to the consumer for 80 piasters.

The governor must act to prevent what is being done by middlemen, who are the cause of high prices. The governor must ensure that subsidized products reach the deserving directly and do not fall in the hands of middlemen, who multiply the prices.

Question: Since we are discussing the governors, isn't it time that governors were chosen in free elections instead of being appointed?

Answer: No. The time has not come yet for the application of the electoral system for choosing governors. There are phases which we have to go through before adopting the electoral system. One of these phases which we are now going through is the decision to vest presidential powers in governors. We have also taken another step forward by choosing governors from the people of the respective governorates. The next step, God willing, will be the adoption of the electoral system for electing instead of appointing governors. Whwn we have achieved this I will regard it as the climax of the administrative revolution, because the election of a governor by the people of the respective governorate means that every governorate has attained complete self-sufficiency. That would be the highest achievement.

Until we achieve this objective, we must consider every step we take. We have not proceeded in a vacuum. We have proceeded from an already existing state. Some achievements have been accomplished while other achievements remain to be accomplished. For this reason, we must preserve continuity in all our achievements and projects and not let anyone abolish what has been started by his predecessor. The newcomer must continue the work that was started by his predecessor. By doing that we will maintain continuity in all our affairs. We must not do as others have done in other countries, such as Portugal following the demise of Salazar. There, they met and decided to make changes. In other words, they decided to abolish everything and start anew. The result was that they plunged their country into endless political chaos.

Question: Can we set a date for introducing the electoral system for electing governors?

Answer: This will have to be after we see that the phase through which we are now going has been completed and we have achieved the expected objectives of this phase, exactly as has happened with the experiment of establishing multiple parties. We began that experiment of platforms and then moved to the establishment of multiple parties. With regard to governors, we are still going through the experiment of choosing governors from the people of the respective governorates. I cannot say that this experiment has achieved what I expected of it. I can even add to this and say that the experiment of choosing governors from among the people of the respective governorates has failed in many governorates, though it has succeeded in a few cases.

The reasons for this failure are numerous. For example, one of the reasons is the embarrassing situation in which the governor can find himself among his relatives, especially within the societies which attach particular importance to kinship and tribalism. As I have said, the experiment has succeeded in some governorates, such as Qina, Al-Gharbiyah, Al-Minufiyah and Alexandria. The governors of all these governorates have been able to overcome the shortcomings of the experiment and have carried out their task successfully.

Question: Does the failure of the experiment of choosing governors from among the people of their respective governorates mean that we should reconsider the experiment?

Answer: We will not abolish the experiment. As I have said, the experiment has succeeded in certain governorates and failed in others. Therefore, we have to adopt the two methods together: We can choose a governor from among the people of the respective governorate in the governorates where the experiment has succeeded and reconsider this method in the other governorates and appoint governors from among the people of other governorates. When we agree that the time has come for us to choose governors by free elections, we will do so immediately and without hesitation.

Question: Can we ask about the reason for your assumption of the task of finding solutions to the urgent supply problems? In all other states, the leaders assign this task to the ministers concerned whereas you, Mr President, are unique in shouldering this responsibility. Why?

Answer: This question should be addressed to the president of the Egyptian republic in the year 2000 and not to the present president. The reason is that I want to be true to myself. In my opinion, the practice of democracy and my responsibility as president of the republic dictate that I should achieve a prosperous society for this people. This is the sound practice which I have been eager to maintain.

Interrupting the president, I asked: Some people wonder why do you leave Cairo so often and tour the provinces in search of a solution to their problems, whereas it is customary for the president of the republic to stay in the capital and for provincial problems to be brought to his desk.

Answer: I have indeed heard such a thing before. What you call customary is no longer so today. Maybe this was the style of previous rulers--that is, under the rule of the king and their excellencies the pashas, when the responsible official was interested in receiving foreign ambassadors and attending receptions.

Also, I am unlike the queen of England, the French president or the president of any European country. In those countries the communities are developed, while we are still in the stage of laying the foundation of our community. The European presidents have finished constructing the building and their only job now is to put on the final touches.

But we in Egypt are at the stage of laying the foundation of our building. This being the case, am I required, as president of the republic, to leave the construction alone, disappear inside the republican palace and decorate my chest with medals so as to receive foreign ambassadors?

Some people believe that the job of president of the republic is to remain in his office and to have nothing to do with what is going outside. I reject this strange logic. My job, as I see it and believe in it, is to build a prosperous community. My aim is to provide a job opportunity for every Egyptian young man. My responsibility is to give maximum incentive to the individual. When the individual achieves this, it will mean that Egypt has succeeded. The question now is: How can I achieve all this while sitting in my office in the presidential palace?

The answer is that it is impossible to take a single step forward unless I leave my office and the capital and see the remote villages and provinces in order to look for the Egyptian man, so as to cooperate with him in solving his problems one by one.

We must not be unfair to the ministers and burden them beyond their capacity and endurance. I am not here defending the ministers but stating a fact which I have felt for myself. The heavy work which a minister carries out, the small details with which he occupies himself all day long and the endless committee meetings do not give him one free moment to think of the common prosperity which I am trying to create. The great amount of work a minister has to do needs more than 24 hours daily. This being the situation, how can we ask him to devote additional time to the search for opportunities for youth?

The only solution is that there should be someone who thinks for them from a distance and who devotes all his time to finding solutions to the problems for which ministers do not have either sufficient time or clear enough thinking to find solutions. Such a person should be farsighted and should apply this farsightedness to the problems of his country; he should have full powers to carry out what he deems fit and suitable for the achievement of the prosperous community of which we dream.

I am the person whose responsibilities and powers I have just defined. I can find one or two million feddans of land which we have neglected. Such land is suitable for farming and for the production of food. We must farm it in order to eat from it. We must give it to the young people so as to open new horizons for them to prove themselves; they can do the work that suits them on this new land.

It is my task to do all this, and not the ministers', because a minister cannot go beyond the limits of his responsibilities. In other words, the minister of agriculture may be able to find such land, but there is the need for water, which is not his responsibility but that of the irrigation minister. Therefore, he must contact the irrigation minister, but the solution of the water problem will not solve the rest of the problems. There will be a need for manpower, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor. All this is bound to create many problems which cannot be solved without the presence of someone who can coordinate, think and assign responsibilities so that serious and determined work begins. This man is the president of the republic.

For this reason I said at the beginning of the answer to this question that it is the responsibility of the president of the republic from now to the year 2000 to open the door to the new generations and to personally look for the new soil to offer to them. It is his responsibility to think and to find radical solutions to problems which one minister or all the ministers together cannot solve. The ministers' office work and the daily problems of the public prevent them from leaving the capital in order to look within the borders of the republic for the new horizons which I have just described.

The president of the Republic of Egypt will not rest until the building process is completed in the year 2000. It is then that we can ask him to stay in the republican palace to receive foreign ambassadors and award medals and titles and, from time to time, visit one of the governorates. What I must do now and what my successor must do until the year 2000 is to leave the office and tour every place within Egypt's borders. I must visit the western desert and from there go to the eastern desert and then Sinai, and so on.

Now that I have mentioned Sinai, we have to rectify the gross mistakes which we committed in this part of Egyptian territory by carrying out major works in two stages: The first stage is the construction of tunnels under the canal and the second stage is the construction of high bridges over the canal.

We have already celebrated the opening of the first tunnel. I have asked Reconstruction Minister al-Kafrawi to conclude agreements with international companies for the construction of a high bridge over the Suez Canal similar to the magnificent bridges in New York and San Francisco and elsewhere, under which the biggest ships can pass. By the time the construction of this bridge is completed, we will have two tunnels under the canal, not one. Who thought of all this? Who decided on the way of linking Sinai with the rest of Egyptian territory on the east bank of the Suez Canal? Was it the reconstruction minister? Was it the communications minister or the deputy prime ministers? Never. It was the president of the republic who thought of Sinai and ordered that it be linked by tunnels and bridges, on the basis of his broad discernment of the requirements of future generations. As for the ministers I have mentioned, they have enough urgent problems and daily matters to deal with--problems which cannot be delayed.

Question: You have talked about the president's long-term responsibilities to bring happiness to the new and future generations. Can you now talk to us about your responsibilities with regard to the food security projects, which are urgent projects?

Answer: The food security problem is one of the most important issues to which I am giving the greater part of my thinking and time. Some people might ask: How can the president of the republic dedicate all his efforts to dealing with the food security projects? These people, regrettably, do not know the meaning of food security. They view this problem simply as a two-word expression and are not aware of what it involves.

There are numerous projects, immeasurable projects, all of which constitute the expression of food security about which we are talking nowadays. There are many agricultural projects and projects which must be carried out before starting the cultivation of the land--soil analysis, seed cultivation, model farm experiments. This is one thing. Another task is connected with the irrigation projects--how to bring water to the new land and how to save every drop of water and not waste so much--no irrigation expert anywhere in the world can believe that we are wasting so much water--and how to produce big crops with as little water as possible. What we have heard about the catastrophe that has befallen our land, which, it is said, has become waterlogged as a result of the method of irrigation by inundation we are using, has astounded everyone who has heard about it. Nobody in the world approves of what we are doing to our water and land. Nobody can simply believe that we are inundating each feddan with no less than 7,000 cubic meters of water annually, sometimes being even more generous and wasteful and inundating each feddan with no less than 10,000 cubic meters of water annually. We have even grown accustomed to inundating each feddan planted with cane with as much as 12,000 cubic meters of water.

Who has ordered that this unreasonable wasting of our water resources be halted? Who has demanded the use of modern irrigation methods? This person must be devoting all his time to this work. He must be the president of the republic, who is seeking prosperity for his people. This is what I am doing.

Question: In your time, people have begun to hear one opinion and then the opposite opinion. We have an opposition which says what it wants. Have you ever been annoyed by the opposition opinion?

Answer: I will perhaps answer this question in the speech which I will deliver before the People's Assembly on 14 May. Let those who call themselves opposition proceed with their erroneous practice of the democracy to which we are adhering. Let them go on. I will answer them on 14 May.

Until that day comes, I can say that when I chose democracy as a system and the People's Assembly approved my proposal to amend the constitution and to establish multiple parties, I was aware that what is now happening would take place. Why? Because many old pointers have made it clear to me how democracy can be practiced by the same erroneous method as that which is being practiced by some people nowadays. You may remember what happened in 1974 when I issued a decision abolishing press censorship. Things got out of hand completely and I was compelled to call a meeting with journalists. The meeting was held in Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria. I started my speech to the journalists by saying: "I have asked to see you in order to rebuke you." Mustapha Amin [founder and publisher of the newspaper AL-AKHBAR] commented on this by saying: This is the first time that we have heard the ruler utter the word "rebuke" instead of "punish."

However, I spoke to the journalists about how the press had gotten out of control after it had been suppressed under strict censorship for a long time, not allowed to utter a whisper of censure. I told them that they should come down from their ivory towers and check this current which was out of control and was not constructive, but destructive and unsuitable. I also told them how one of them could find nothing to write other than an article, the gist of which was that Egypt, his homeland, was filthy, and how, soon after, other writers followed suit. It was as if Egypt's filthiness was one of the achievements and glories which we can boast to the whole world. I wished the matter to remain confined to the Egyptian newspapers alone. Regrettably, the newspapers of certain oil-rich Arab shaykhdoms took up what was published by the Egyptian journalists and added their malice and hatred to it. They said that Egypt was filthy and that its men and women too were filthy.

The Egyptian press got out of control after the abolition of press censorship. The same thing is happening these days in party political activities--simply revolution, slander and the stirring up of hatred. Is this not what is termed shame? However, I have a lot to say on 14 May.

Question: It is being reiterated these days that the declaration of the approaching emergence of the opposition wing is only one means to strike at the opposition parties and restrict their movement.

Answer: Whoever is reiterating such words knows nothing about me, nor has he learned anything from my previous stances. Even if they knew or learned, they would still persist in demonstrating their ignorance and inadequacy. They have the same stupid mentality as those who doubted our resolve to stage our battle against Israel before October 1973. When we started the battle and later triumphed, the doubters did not feel embarrassed nor did they learn. I never make a promise which I cannot fulfill.

As to the approaching emergence of the opposition wing within the National Democratic Party (NDP), I will certainly discuss this subject in my speech on 14 May, God willing. I have a lot to say about the opposition and its method. Why? Because I have been totally disappointed with the opposition. As I said in the previous issue of May, my hope for the emergence of a strong and sound opposition has been frustrated. In the 14 May speech, the people will hear about this erroneous method with which some people are practicing politics and democracy.

I would like to reassure you that I do not embark on any action or behavior as a result of a spur-of-the-moment emotional outburst or because of a certain pressure. All my actions and behavior are the result of calm analysis whose roots extend way back into history. I derive from history what it has to offer us and base my actions on experiences which tolerate no lies or doubts. For this reason, I take my time in making my decisions and I do not fail in my expectations. Regarding the opposition, no one can deny that I was the first to call for the establishment of opposition and the first to call for the opposite opinion. I even went as far as introducing to the people the man who has now become responsible for the opposition party. Were it not for my approval and the approval of the NDP deputies, the opposition party would not have been established.

Some people forget all this and try to ignore it. However, I will mention all this in my 14 May speech, God willing. Those who are now reiterating what you mentioned in your question will realize that that they know nothing about me and my method of practicing democracy. They know nothing despite the fact that my method is regarded as an open book which every citizen can peruse and thus learn a great deal. They will also know that responsibility and ethics are indivisible as far as I am concerned. They will know that I will not reconsider the values and principles which I have advocated, even with respect to those who have no values or principles. They will know that my actions are always based on the interests of the people and never meant for local consumption. They will know that I give one chance after another to anyone wishing to participate in construction, but I never give up when faced with an experiment that has failed despite all attempts to make it succeed.

Question: Let us go back in time and suppose that we are now on the morning of 15 May 1971: Would you make the same decisions you have made since then, particularly those related to the establishment of multiple parties and the abolition of the one-party system, in the light of the result of the experiment?

Answer: You have specifically mentioned May 1971. However, I say that ever since the day I became aware of what was going on around me in the village of Mit Abu al-Kawm, and from my childhood and modest upbringing there to this day, all that I have wished for during my long life has been fulfilled, thanks be to God. If we are to go back in time, as you say, I would wish for myself nothing other than what has happened to me so far.

It is true that I have experienced moments of great difficulties which no human would tolerate, such as on the anniversary of the night of Al-Qadr [the night on which the Koran was revealed] in 1942 when I was a young 23-year old officer and a decision was issued expelling me from the service. That happened at a time when I had a family to look after and no income other than my wages. That was not all. I was also sent to the "foreigner's" prison not knowing when I would be released or freed. Even if I was freed, what would I do without work, income and security?

Had you asked me then how I felt, I would have told that I would never wish to go through the same ordeal again. But since you put this question to me now, when all that is a mere memory, I tell you that the difficulties, crises and hardships which I experienced could be responsible for what I am today. Naturally, life is not devoid of sufferings, problems and difficulties. The important thing is that one should become immune to all these things and live with them and try to confront them. This is what I tell the NDP youth when I meet them after Friday prayers every week. These young people thought that they were to hear my talk about ideology. I told them: My children, ideology is very easy, but the difficult thing about which I have come to talk to you is how to prepare yourselves to face life. I told them that I wanted to internally immunize each one of them against the difficulties and hardships which they might encounter in their lifetime.

Question: Your wise decision to pardon all the Egyptian journalists working abroad, provided they return to Egypt before 15 May did not specify those to whom the pardon applies, especially since we have over 400 journalists working abroad. Are they all required to come here, or only those who have gone astray and harmed themselves before harming their country?

Answer: When I uttered the word "shame" for the first time, some people became afraid and started to shout. The reason is that these people became isolated in their society and country and also from the values of their country. Ethics, as everybody knows, is regarded first of all as one of Egypt's values, later confirmed by the divine religions.

When I went to celebrate with the Egyptian journalists their first anniversary, I delivered a speech in which I said a great deal which made those who have no ethics lose their senses and expose their illusions and allegations. Before that ceremony, a minority of them used to propagate illusory and unreal issues. That malevolent minority used to say that Egyptian journalists were against the building process which is still going on and that Egyptian journalists rejected everything and boycotted everything taking place in their country. We heard a lot of statements which they made and propagated in other malevolent and rejectionist capitals.

What was being said about Egyptian journalists was untrue. The great majority of them are good and nationalist. As for the misguided minority, it used to work in the interest of those whose constant objective was to win in the journalists union elections. The way these people won elections is well known. They were aware that the majority did not support them. Therefore, they made sure that there would be no quorum in the General Assembly. The assembly would be adjourned to reconvene later with the least possible number of members. These members would vote for them and they would win. In the recent elections this plan did not succeed. All the nationalist journalists attended and there was a quorum in the General Assembly. Those who represented the broad case won and those who represented the minority, which I have talked about, lost.

I went to participate in the Egyptian journalists' celebration of their first anniversary this year. It became clear to the whole world that the Egyptian journalists were not against the regime at all, nor against the government or peace with Israel. They even emphasized that they were against "shame," as evidenced by the press code of honor which they themselves published.

I go back to your question and say that those meant by my decision are those who have sold their conscience for dinars--those who slander Egypt, their motherland, over hostile radios and in hostile newspapers abroad. Fortunately, these are only a stray, completely insignificant minority.

Have you read what the newspaper AL-AKHBAR published yesterday? It reprinted a letter which a Kuwaiti newspaper had published earlier. The letter came from 'Issah Mahmud, an Egyptian woman living in Ad-Damman in Saudi Arabia. What this woman had written gratified me because she answered this stray minority of Egyptians, describing them as "having sold their motherland, Egypt." This is the strongest and harshest description that can ever be given to a person who slanders his country, people and homeland abroad. He who sells his motherland knows no shame or ethics and believes in nothing. It is these persons whom I have decided to pardon in order to save them from their futile situation. We do not pay attention to them or to the abuse they are uttering day and night. No one cares if they stay as they are or return to their homeland, Egypt, which they have sold for a pittance. We are strong and honorable. This is what our compassionate motherland, Egypt, has taught us. Those who wish to come can do so. Our doors are open to all. During the journalists' celebration I declared that whoever comes to Egypt before 15 May will be safe and that we will not persecute him or try him for what he said and perpetrated against his motherland, Egypt.

Question: Are we to ask the nationalist journalists working aborad to return home after completing the time for which they have been loaned, in accordance with the request made by the Egyptian press establishments which loaned them for specific periods?

Answer: As I have said, only a very meager, misguided minority has harmed itself before harming its country. The majority of the journalists working abroad are good, nationalist and loyal. So why should we ask this majority to return if it wishes to work abroad? You can quote me as saying that we permit, as of today, any journalist to work in any country where he finds work. Every citizen, be he a journalist or otherwise, has the right to travel and to do the work that suits and benefits him. We have opened the doors. We have closed the detention camps forever. So how can we now close the borders again and decide who can travel and who cannot, as long as the person who wants to travel does not sell his dignity or renounce his nationalism and is not enticed into selling his motherland? We have adopted the open-door policy. Only cultural advanced, intrinsically strong states which are confident of their legitimacy open their doors to the world. Their borders are open to anyone who wishes to go out or come in. Only the societies which are afriad, backward and illegitimate close the doors and windows, open prisons and detention camps and prevent people from going out or coming in.

Question: Some employers might not allow their employees to travel and work abroad because they say that work at their establishments cannot do without their highly qualified and experienced employees.

Answer: That is untrue and unacceptable. Egypt is not incapable of producing new qualified people or successive generations of scientists, experts and competent journalists and people with rare talent. As the country people say, Egypt is fertile.

We must not close the door to anyone who thinks that it is in his interest to work abroad for a period, the length of which he himself and not we will specify. We must approve immediately any request we receive from Egyptians working abroad to renew their permits to work abroad for a few more years.

We would like them to stay here with us and to participate in building the society of prosperity which we are building with affection, hope and enthusiasm. However, if a person believes that he can work, build and give abroad, we will not stand in his way nor prevent him from attaining his objective. When he decides to return to us--and he is bound to return one day because the motherland will always be dear and cannot be foresaken or sold--he will find our doors and hearts open to receive and welcome him. What I have said here about journalists also applies to all other professions and citizens.

MAY REPORTS 'REJECTIONIST STATE' SUBVERSION

LD031523 Cairo MAY in Arabic 1 Jun 81 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Without Comment"]

[Text] It has been established by the security authority that some of those employed in the office looking after the interests of a certain rejectionist state in Cairo are engaged in subversive activities in Egypt and are trying to enlist some elements to carry out their plans against the internal front.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES FOREIGN MINISTERS 3 JUN

JN031500 Baghdad INA in Arabic 3 Jun 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received this afternoon the foreign ministers of several fraternal Arab countries participating in the Islamic Conference foreign ministers meeting.

He received Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and discussed with him relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the Arab region.

He also received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. Relations between the two fraternal countries were discussed.

He also received Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, who handed him a written message from UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with the fields of cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

The president also received Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and discussed with him relations between the two fraternal countries.

The meetings were attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister, and Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary and acting chief of the president's office.

MESSAGE FROM MITTERRAND RECEIVED BY SADDAM HUSYAN

JN031304 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from French President Francois Mitterrand dealing with the scope of cooperation between the two friendly countries and exchanging views on a number of international issues.

The message was conveyed by the French president's special envoy Serge Boidevaix during his meeting with President Saddam Husayn this morning. Boidevaix conveyed French President Mitterrand's greetings and the French Government's and people's greetings to the Iraqi Government and people for further progress, prosperity and development in the relations between Iraq and France in the various fields.

The meeting was attended by Qays Tawfiq al-Mukhtar, chief of protocol at the presidential palace, and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

French Envoy Departs

JN032005 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)--The French president's special envoy, Serge Boidevaix, ended a short visit to Iraq today and left for Amman on the second leg of his tour.

In a statement before departure, the French envoy said he had delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from President Mitterrand on French-Iraqi relations, joint cooperation and its development for the better.

Boidevaix praised the advanced relations that exist between Iraq and France and expressed hope that they would continue to develop.

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO SADDAM HUSAYN

GF031340 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has received a written message addressed to President Saddam Husayn from Djibouti President Hassan Gouled.

The message was delivered to the foreign minister by Mohammad Djama Elabe, Djibouti minister of national education, youth and sports and head of the Djibouti delegation to the Islamic Conference foreign ministers meeting. He was received by Dr Hammadi this morning. The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of joint interest.

HAMMADI MEETS WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER 3 JUN

JN031648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met with his Turkish counterpart Ilter Turkmen late this afternoon and discussed bilateral relations with him, particularly in the economic field. They also exchanged views on a number of political issues that concern the region, such as the situation in Iran, Arab-Turkish and Iraqi-Turkish relations and international issues of joint interest.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY RECEIVES FINNISH DELEGATION

GF021244 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] Taha Tawfiq, a member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of industry and minerals, has received Finnish Foreign Trade Minister Esko Rekola and the delegation accompanying him. The development of industrial and technical cooperation between the two countries was discussed during the meeting.

The minister of industry and minerals said future cooperation between Iraq and other countries will be based on the stands of those countries on the aggressive war imposed by the racist Persian regime on our steadfast country. The minister praised cooperation between Iraq and Finland in the field of industrial projects in our country, noting the importance of developing this cooperation in order to serve the joint interests of both countries.

Esko Rekola confirmed Finland's commitment to complete, as agreed upon, all the development projects in which Finnish companies are participating. He stressed that his country is prepared to reinforce cooperation in the fields of engineering, industrial planning and industrialization.

TRADE OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR YUGOSLAVIA 4 JUN

JN040856 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)--Iraqi Trade Ministry Under Secretary Hatim 'Abd ar-Rashid left for Belgrade today heading a delegation on an official visit to Yugoslavia on the first leg of a tour that will include Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Bulgaria and Romania. He said that during the tour he will discuss ways to promote economic and trade relations between Iraq and these countries. The delegation includes several officials in the Trade Ministry and the Union of Chambers of Commerce.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 357

JN031728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses 1700 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Communique No 357 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 3 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our capable armed forces have dealt blows to the ignorant racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors. The results of the activities last night and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our courageous advanced units engaged enemy infantry units in Nowsud. After a fierce battle in which all kinds of weapons were used, the enemy was forced to retreat abandoning more than 280 dead. Our units also destroyed one infantry position, one tank and one vehicle in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin.
B. Seven were killed and one gun, three vehicles and two ammunition stockpiles were destroyed in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab.
C. Enemy concentratons were sighted opposite our units in Gilan-e Gharb. Our forces hit them with their weapons, forcing them to retreat after inflicting on them 11 dead and destroying 2 vehicles and 1 ammunition stockpile in the same region.
D. Destruction of one vehicle and two ammunition stockpiles in Mehran.
E. Destruction of two infantry positions and one ammunition stockpile in Dezful.
F. One dead and the destruction of one vehicle and one excavator in Shush.
G. Three dead and the destruction of one gun in Khafajiyah [Susangerd].
H. Three dead and the destruction of one observation post in Ahvaz.
I. Our units hit with various weapons enemy positions and concentrations in Abadan region, inflicting on the enemy 16 dead and destroying 2 vehicles, 1 carrying personnel, and 4 ammunition stockpiles.
J. Our aircraft raided today enemy concentrations opposite our units in Nowsud, scoring direct hits and returning safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 321 dead, 3 infantry positions, 1 tank, 2 guns, 10 vehicles, 1 excavator, 1 observation post and 10 ammunition stockpiles.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Five martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, one vehicle and one gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 June 1981

CABINET MEETS 3 JUN; OFFICIALS' COMMENTS CITED

Mussayki, Sarkis Views

NC031457 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers. Following the meeting, which ended at 1530, the Cabinet director general, Dr 'Ummar Mussayki, gave the following details.

At the beginning of the meeting President Sarkis expressed his deep pain for the innocent victims who are falling as a result of the security situation, which is causing ruination and destruction.

His Excellency President Sarkis said: I condemn these acts as every citizen and human being does. The current contacts with all parties and fraternal and friendly countries are aimed at putting an end to this tragedy from which Lebanon is suffering. His Excellency expressed his hope that these contacts will lead to improving the situation, despite these hard circumstances, which Lebanon has never before encountered.

His Excellency President Sarkis expressed his satisfaction with the desire of all parties not to increase violence. He said that criticizing the government is easy. The national duty calls for concerting the efforts of all Lebanese toward saving Lebanon, because, as everyone knows, the Lebanese crisis is about to cause a large-scale war. Given this situation, is it sensible that the government alone is responsible for this? Could the government solve the problem and put an end to the tragedy by merely making a decision?

President Sarkis further said that certain parties express views that do not take into account all the realistic factors. They ignore the exceptional conditions and abnormal circumstances under which Lebanon is living. Sarkis said: I hope that those critics who have views and opinions will help us find practical solutions which can be implemented to alleviate the ordeals our country and people are suffering. We adopt only the positions that Lebanon's interest dictates and those which are in keeping with realistic factors.

Sarkis said: The positions that we adopt are decided upon in light of Lebanon's interest and are consistent with the realistic factors. No obstacle will stop us from following this course, because we consider it sound and the only avenue that will end the crisis and return reassurance, prosperity and stability to Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan Comments

NC031415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting in the presence of Prime Minister al-Wazzan and the ministers. The meeting ended at 1410. Except for the prime minister, who answered newsmen's questions, none of the ministers made any statements on the meeting.

Asked whether the venue of the Arab followup committee meeting has been set, Al-Wazzan replied: The meeting will, of course, take place in Lebanon. Arrangements are underway to determine the location.

Asked whether a Lebanese working paper will be submitted to the meeting, Al-Wazzan answered: The concept of a working paper must be defined. if we mean the issues with some details, the answer is yes. If, however, what is meant by a working paper is a plan that includes all points and issues that are considered a solution to the Lebanese question, then this definitely can only be ensured through consultations with all parties and as a result of the positions that will emerge at the appropriate time beginning with the meeting [of the Arab followup committee] that we hope will take place on Saturday and in subsequent meetings.

Al-Wazzan further said: Regarding the security situation, I would like to point out that at today's meeting, in addition to discussing the political and security issues, we gave priority to the security situation in Zahlah, because the circumstances so dictate. We are following this situation, hoping that calm will prevail in Zahlah as it has, so far, in Beirut.

INFORMATION MINISTER REACTS TO BEGIN PEACE CALL

NC031724 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] In reply to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's statement in which he repeated his call to President Sarkis [to visit Jerusalem to sign a peace treaty], Information Minister Michel Iddih made the following statement:

Despite our conviction that the statement does not deserve an answer because we know the election goals behind it, Menahem Begin's repeated harping on this ruse makes us reassert Lebanon's position, to which it has adhered during the successive eras and since the emergence of the Palestinian question. Lebanon's position is based on the Arab League's and the Arab summits' resolutions.

Concluding his statement, Information Minister Iddih said: Lebanon is confident that partial solutions will not solve the basic problem, the cost of which Lebanon is paying heavily every day at the expense of its territory and people. Lebanon believes that the only sound and effective solution is a just and comprehensive one that tackles the essence of the question.

LEBANESE FORCES SPOKESMAN RESPONDS TO AL-AS'AD

NC031523 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jun 81

[Text] The Lebanese forces' official spokesman has reacted to a statement by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad about the Lebanese forces, which keep security and do not dominate the eastern part of Beirut. Al-As'ad's statement included a falsehood that the Lebanese forces did not respond to the security plan for the Chamber of Deputies building.

The Lebanese forces affirm that they have not been informed about this security plan. They were surprised by the attempt to implement it without advance knowledge. The area of the museum and the Chamber of Deputies has been a military zone since the Syrians, Palestinians and communists were stationed in the area and its vicinity to launch regular aggressions on the residential areas opposite them in the eastern part of Beirut.

The spokesman continued: Speaker al-As'ad should have completed his contacts with the parties concerned and received their approval of the security plan, because they are responsible for the security of citizens, especially during Al-As'ad's and the like's absence abroad, moving from one tourist resort to another while all the sects and factions of the Lebanese people throughout Lebanon are being subjected to aggression by the forces that Al-As'ad is trying to acquit.

PALESTINIANS SAID TO INSTALL MISSILES IN BEIRUT

NC031546 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Palestinians are installing artillery and missile [sawarikh] bases in Ar-Rawshaw area [in Beirut] between Al-Ghalayini Cafe and (Al-Watawit) Cafe.

GUNMEN REPORTEDLY ATTACK IRAQI EMBASSY OFFICIAL

NC031811 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Unknown gunmen today opened fire at 'Adnan Habib Husayn, the second secretary at the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, on Habib Abu Shahla Street. A bullet hit his left arm and he was taken to the American University Hospital. Security organs are on the move to identify the culprits.

POLICY ON LEBANON, PALESTINIANS REAFFIRMED

JN040651 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Excerpts] Aleppo--The 21st market for industrial and agricultural production was opened in Aleppo yesterday evening under President Hafiz al-Asad's patronage. Dr Muhammad al-Atrash, economy and foreign trade minister, represented the president at the opening.

The president's representative delivered a speech in which he reviewed some of the economic achievements during 1980 and those of the current year. He said: Important economic achievements were made during the past year and several economic procedures were adopted in order to achieve an increase in balanced development.

As his excellency the president said, however, the most important achievement was the overcoming of the sabotage plot, whose purpose was to fragment this state and weaken it in order to prevent it from confronting the Israeli attempt to impose hegemony over the Arab region.

Dr al-Atrash affirmed that Syria will spare no efforts in adopting all the necessary procedures to safeguard Lebanon's unity and the Palestinian resistance.

The president's representative stated that the most important goal of the present policy is to achieve a high level of balanced development in such a way that there will be no great increase in imports.

DAMASCUS SAYS U.S. DIPLOMATIC GAME EXPOSED

JN031425 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. envoy is scheduled to return to the region within 2 days to resume the so-called U.S. efforts to prevent an eruption of the situation following Israel's fabricated Syrian missile crisis.

The U.S. envoy's return has been preceded by intensified Israeli acts of piracy against the Palestinians and Lebanese within the framework of the cover provided by U.S. Secretary of State Haig when he declared that his country's efforts are devoted to returning Lebanon to its previous state, that before the balance of powers was upset. This means that the United States is still biased toward Israel despite its claims that it is seeking a solution to the present crisis outside of a military approach.

What does returning Lebanon to its previous state mean? First, it means impeding the legitimate authorities' efforts to implement their program to achieve national accord. Second, it means impeding their efforts to exercise control over all Lebanese territory, particularly southern Lebanon, and over the border strip, which is being occupied by Israel through its agent Sa'd Haddad. It also signifies intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs and an attempt to pressure the legitimate authorities to sever their links with the Arab Deterrent Forces, which constitute the authorities' effective arm and protect Lebanon's security, which is directly linked to Syria's security. Finally, this means keeping the situation in Lebanon explosive, which is within the framework of the Camp David scheme: exploiting the Lebanese arena as a hotbed for peddling the plots being fabricated against Syria, the Palestinians and the steadfast Arabs in general.

Lebanon's return to its previous state would give Israel a colonialist right in the Lebanese situation. It would also give the United States the card to manipulate Lebanon as if it were under a U.S. mandate.

Haig declared that the opportunities for reaching a settlement have become limited in time. What could this statement suggest other than giving the green light to Israel to launch a wide-scale attack? The Reagan administration denied having given its consent to Israel to strike at the Palestinians in Lebanon after terrorist Begin declared he has been given such a consent. However, such a denial deceives no one since the U.S. description of the Israeli acts of piracy against the Palestinians as legitimate can only mean it is giving Israel the green light to continue its aggressive and expansionist policy in Lebanon.

The game of the U.S. diplomatic efforts has been exposed.

The U.S. administration was under the illusion that it could reach the same results through diplomacy. However, such a maneuver cannot succeed since Syria will not yield to any pressures or threats. Syria is defending Lebanon's security, which is directly linked to Syria's security. Thus, if Israel is contemplating exploding the situation under the cover of the U.S. umbrella, Syria will reply to the aggression with full strength and intensity, as it is defending a legitimate national and pan-Arab right. Any aggression will only result in abating the Israeli intransigence and lead to the collapse of the colonialist Camp David plot.

PRESS REVIEWS ISRAELI MOTIVES, SYRIAN POLICIES

JN040852 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Press review]

[Text] In a commentary under the headline "Begin and the Christians' Protection," the paper TISHRIN says that yesterday's discussions in the Zionist Knesset proved that the known Israeli intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs and the collusion between the Israeli Government and Lebanese factions have reached the extent of actual contacts and deadlines with Israel.

Reviewing Menahem Begin's statements to the Knesset, one discovers that Israel is not concerned over protecting the Christians in Lebanon, defending one group against another or helping the Lebanese to defend their state and safeguard their independence and unity of their territories. Rather, Israel wants to create a situation in Lebanon that would prevent the Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinians and Arabs from concerting their capabilities in order to confront the Israeli aggression and ambitions.

On the Israeli intervention against the Syrian helicopters in Lebanon, Begin said that if the Syrians had succeeded in reaching their targets, they would have proceeded to southern Lebanon to join the saboteurs--the Palestinians--in order to attack us.

We believe that such candor best clarifies Israel's intentions in Lebanon and its motives for inciting some Lebanese factions to adopt stands against Lebanese legitimacy and its forces, the unity of Lebanon's people and territories and Lebanon's national interests.

TISHRIN states that if Israel was really concerned over protecting the Christians and safeguarding their interests, why has it and why is it still oppressing the Christian Palestinians and expelling them from their lands and houses? Why has it and why is it still perpetrating genocide against them, just as it has done against the other Palestinians?

Furthermore, if Israel was really concerned over protecting the Christians, why did it expel the citizens of Iqrit and Kefar Bar'am in the Galilee from their lands and prevent them from returning to these lands even though these two villages' Christians are Maronite Christians.

The paper affirms that the Israeli leaders, who are preparing to push the region to the precipice of war and are subjecting the Israeli citizens to death and destruction, cannot be concerned over the interests of the Christians in Lebanon. Indeed, it would not be in Israel's interest for Lebanon to recuperate and resume its Arab role as a state with a unified people and territory, a state exercising sovereignty over its airspace, waters and territory.

Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty, however, would be in the interest of all the Lebanese factions and sects as well as in the interest of Syria and the Arab nation. On this, differences arose in stands on the issue of national accord in Lebanon. Those desiring Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, independence, health and stability and an Arab and international role for Lebanon support the achievement of national accord in Lebanon, because they think this is the first step in that direction. However, the enemies of Lebanon's unity and independence reject such accord and put obstacles in its path.

We point out that Israel intervened militarily and pushed those colluding with it to erupt the security situation when omens of possible progress toward national accord within the framework and under the leadership of legitimacy appeared.

National accord in Lebanon must be based on the following: 1) safeguarding the unity of Lebanon's people and territory and Lebanon's Arab affiliations, independence and sovereignty; 2) stopping sectarian sedition and any form of sectarian or factional division; 3) safeguarding the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon within the framework of the agreements between the Lebanese Government and the resistance; 4) direct or indirect relations or contacts must not be established between any Lebanese side and Israel.

Syria has expressed support for these foundations. All the Lebanese should contribute to achieving them under the leadership of legitimacy. Who is the friend of Lebanon and the Lebanese people, and who the enemy?

Under the headline "The Israeli Encirclement and the Syrian Reply" in its "Behind the News" column, the newspaper TISHRIN says that when Syria decided to confront aggression, it was aware of its ability to bear difficulties and also aware that the aggressors will pay an exorbitant price. Defending the homeland's independence and the sanctity of its airspace, safeguarding its sacred soil and liberating its occupied territories from the essence of Syria's presence. These principles also bolster the people's ability to carry out their pan-Arab and humanitarian duties.

Syria has prepared itself to reply to more than one encirclement attempt. Ludicrous allegations and Israeli acts will not change reality, nor will they remove anyone from the stalemate in which they find themselves.

In conclusion TISHRIN says: Today's Syria is strong and capable. Under the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria is aware that the Arab-Israeli conflict necessitates sacrifices, and profit and loss will not be taken into consideration. It also knows that all the provocations and acrobatics will not budge it from the policies it has wisely adopted. Syria will always be able to define its desires.

In its commentary today the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: By saying he agrees with Zionist Prime Minister Menahem Begin that time is limited for the success of what he called U.S. diplomatic efforts to solve the missile crisis, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is reconfirming that U.S. policy in the region continues to reflect and express the Israeli policy and to act as an instrument of Israel's objectives.

Syria will not come to terms with aggression and will continue to resist and deter it, armed with our people's cohesion behind the wise leadership of militant President Hafiz al-Asad; with the Arab masses' rallying around our stand, which embodies their free will; and with the support of the world's forces of freedom, progress and socialism for our struggle.

The attempts to camouflage the Israeli aggression with diplomatic efforts will not divert us from facing the danger and from continuing our efforts to mobilize all available potentials to deter and rout this aggression.

KNESSET OPENS DEBATE ON COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIANS

TA030912 [Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0908 GMT on 3 June begins live coverage of the Knesset debate on Israel's commitments to the Christians in Lebanon. According to the announcer, only the first two speakers--MK Yitzhaq Rabin, who opens the debate on behalf of the Alignment, and Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who will reply for the government--are to be carried live.

Rabin Speech

TA031041 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0908 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Speech by MK Yitzhaq Rabin to Knesset--Live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset: On one day in December in 1979 a crucial event occurred in Israel. According to a statement of the prime minister's office of 24 May 1981 and according to other revelations, the prime minister and a number of Cabinet members adopted a grave decision that is without precedence in the history of the State of Israel. It would seem that on behalf of the Cabinet a commitment had been given to a delegation of Christian leaders that Israel would launch its air force to defend the Christians, should they be attacked by the Syrian Air Force. By issuing this commitment, the government lost its ability to consider whether the circumstances under which the Syrian aerial attack on the Christians will occur, its scope and the causes generating it, indeed justify the activation of Israel's Air Force. The authority to put the Israeli Air Force to use under certain circumstances had been shifted to a foreign factor, the fighting Christian leadership in Lebanon. Something like that has not yet happened in Israel. No past government has given a commitment to a foreign factor that should it be attacked by a third party, Israel would be obligated to apply against the latter the IDF forces operationally.

Knesset members, the hasty decision of the prime minister and a number of Cabinet members to give such a deviating and extraordinary commitment necessitates a profound discussion, lest it be used as a precedence for events to come. A very delicate area is at issue here: The state of Israel's security, the objective of the IDF and the normality of the state's administrative processes that are connected with the operational activation of the IDF. The objectives of Israel's Defense Forces are true to that army's name: The defense of the state, the guarding of its citizens' security and their possessions. The securing of military and political interests linked directly to our existence and to our future. All the past governments were watchful that the IDF is put to use solely for these objectives and not for any other aim. Moreover, no cabinet had assumed a commitment that is abrogating the sole authority of activating the IDF.

Mr Prime Minister, why did you assume this deviating and dangerous commitment: You assumed an obligation that is a chief component in every military treaty between sovereign states, even if it is given orally. Mr Prime Minister, you and the Cabinet have assumed an authority that is over and above what is customary and acceptable in a normal democratic regime. The President of the United States has no authority to give a commitment such as you have given, without receiving permission from the legislative body, the U.S. Senate. There is no government in Western Europe that would assume such an authority without receiving approval from its parliament. How could this have happened, Mr Begin? You, who are known as a veteran parliamentarian, have deviated from a fundamental principle of every parliamentary democratic regime during, of all times, your term in office as prime minister? Why did you fail to present the obligation you assumed, in such a delicate object for Israel's security, to the approval or, at least, to the knowledge of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee? These questions of mine are not formalistic or legalistic only. They touch on the most essential questions of our very existence. What is the IDF's objective and who is authorized to undertake its activation in aid of a foreign factor that is being attacked by a third party.

The Knesset has to receive unequivocal answers to my questions. The Knesset must demand that no such commitments are given in the future, without endorsement by its Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, before they are transmitted to the referent foreign factor. States that are wont to give out commitments such as those that were given to the Christians' leaders, know how to equip them with conditions and reservations. They demand a prior consultation with the receiver of the commitment, before an act is committed that is liable to necessitate use of the military forces. This is to prevent a situation in which the state might find itself saddled with a war it had not wanted.

Mr Prime Minister, did you, besides the obligation to the Christian leaders, make sure that this reservation and condition be fulfilled. Did you demand to know beforehand about a military action of theirs that is liable to embroil us in fighting without their having first consulted us before its execution? And if that is not the case, then you gave to the Christian leadership the ability to decide, instead of to the Cabinet, when, where and how the State of Israel will find itself engaged in a fight without having been able to influence this.

I am not linking this statement of mine to the recent incidents in Lebanon and to the development that engendered the missile crisis. I am trying to demonstrate the problem of principle that is connected with giving a commitment such as had been given by the government to the Christian leadership in December 1979.

Knesset members, as for the process of adopting decisions on this subject, I read in the press well-known stories about that meeting in December 1979, in which the commitment was given. One Cabinet member proposed to the prime minister in the course of the meetint with the Christian leaders to accept the Christians' request.

It is not clear what the position of other ministers was during that meeting. And in this way a decision was adopted, so meaningful to Israel's security. And if, by the way, these descriptions are incorrect, they ought to be corrected by those involved.

More than a year passed before the subject was brought for approval by the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. The Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee heard of this for the first time only after the realization of that commitment on 30 April 1981.

As an Israeli citizen, as a former prime minister, I am sad, very sad that such a vital issue had been handled in such a way. True, in the past security and military aid had been given to various factors and states by the State of Israel. Such aid had been given to the Kurdish rebels in Iraq. The Cabinet that I was privileged to head began giving military aid to the Christians in Lebanon. Various countries in Asia and Africa have benefitted by Israel's military know-how and experience. The principle that characterized such aid in the past was to help them to help themselves. Never was a preliminary commitment given to intervene in wars that were not ours by means of the Israeli Defense Forces.

The present Cabinet deviated from this principle and it did it without the endorsement or knowledge of the Knesset. Before this extraordinary commitment was given by the present cabinet, the relations between Israel and the Christians in northern Lebanon had been conducted according to a pattern that had been set by the former Cabinet in the midst of the civil war in Lebanon. The situation in the Lebanese region was at that time insufferable for the Christians. Forces of the PLO and of the Muslim left had joined forces against them. The Lebanese Government lost control over what was happening and the Lebanese Army was disintegrating. The PLO and the Muslims were gaining the upper hand in the war against the Christians and the Christian existence in Lebanon has been put to a real danger.

Under those circumstances, while calls for help were issuing from everywhere, on the eve of annihilation, the Christians asked for help from both Syria and Israel. From us they requested aid in arms and training as well as political and economic aid. We responded to their requests.

The reasons for this were: The Christians fought against the Palestinian terrorist organizations, Israel's enemies. They desired to prevent the transformation of Lebanon into a Muslim PLO state. Such a state would have become an active country of confrontation against Israel, with Soviet aid.

As Jews, as a Jewish state, we deemed it to be our moral duty not to stand by when a minority is being persecuted simply due to its being a minority. Hence, we helped the Christians in the north with arms and ammunition, be it machinegun ammunition or tanks. We trained their fighters and gave them economic help. All this helped them to defend themselves. However, we had not assumed a commitment to fight their war.

At that time, in June 1976, the Syrian Army entered Lebanon, following a request by the Lebanese president and with the approval of the Christian leadership of that country. A new situation was then created, as far as we were concerned. The Cabinet was then seriously considering what to do and how to react. It was then decided not to go to war with Syria to prevent its army from entering into Lebanon. Why? We saw no justification then to start a new and superfluous war because of a move that had not been aimed a priori directly against Israel. Moreover, at that time the Syrian Army was firmly acting against the Palestinian terror organizations and we had no reason to prevent that army from doing so. Furthermore, this also eased the grave circumstances of the Christians at that time.

Similarly, through the U.S. administration, a tacit understanding had been created regarding reservations and limitations to the activities of the Syrian Army in Lebanon. It was stipulated in the frame of that understanding that the Syrians will not approach the Israeli-Lebanese border, that they won't introduce ground-to-air missile batteries into Lebanon and that they won't use their air force against the Christians. That understanding had been more or less honored for almost 5 years, up until the beginning of 1981. Thus, Israel ensured a limitless operational ability against the terrorists in Lebanon, a freedom of action to the Israeli Air Force in Lebanese skies and the safeguarding of the Christians from activities by the Syrian Air Force. I am not sure that this situation could not have been perpetuated.

Now we are at a grave conflict with the Syrians. And, since this is the case, I won't discuss today the circumstances that led us to the present state of affairs.

Knesset members, Syria, which introduced missile batteries into Lebanon, has challenged Israel. The Syrian move...[MK Moshe Dayan interrupts, asking if Rabin is prepared to quote the text of what he calls the commitment, what had been said in 1979]

Knesset member Moshe Dayan, you asked a question, I'll try and answer you as best as I can. I took the prime minister's office statement of 24 May 1981 and from there I cited the text of the commitment, that Israel would use its air force to defend the Christians if the Syrian Air Force attacks them. This is the quotation that I copied from the text of the prime minister's office statement.

And now to conclude my statement: Knesset members, Syria, which introduced missile batteries into Lebanon, challenged Israel. The Syrian move is being supported by the Soviet Union. Syria and the Soviet Union are trying to exploit the present crisis as a lever for arrangements desirable to them in Lebanon and even beyond that. From Moscow and Damascus we hear voices that call also for a change of the basis and the framework of the peace process in the Middle East. The missile crisis is still strong and its military and political dimensions are growing. The problem has already gone beyond the mere subject of missiles. We are facing new dangers. In view of this new reality, every Cabinet has the responsibility of adopting a sensible and firm policy.

I'd like to hope that the present Cabinet, in the short time that it is still in office, will indeed conduct its affairs thus. However, the way this Cabinet handled the extraordinary commitment given to the Christians in Lebanon leaves doubts and concern in my heart. Therefore, on behalf of the Alignment faction, I propose to conduct a discussion in a Knesset plenary session on the issuing of a far-reaching commitment to the Christians in Lebanon, on the manner of adopting decisions in this matter by the Cabinet and the ignoring of the Knesset and its committees in adopting this crucial decision.

Begin Speech

TA031016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0926 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Speech by Prime Minister Begin to Knesset--live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Members of the Knesset: A petition signed by 30 Knesset members from the Alignment and from two one-person factions stated, among other points: "Let the prime minister explain to the Knesset why he committed Israel in such a manner, which is not consistent with national responsibility, in a cardinal security matter, and this on his own advisement." Such a letter to the Knesset speaker is an official document, and it states that I, on my own, gave some sort of commitment--and adds various descriptions--to a delegation of Christians in Lebanon. Now I shall quote the official minutes, which are in our archives, and [words indistinct]: On 22 August 1978 there was a meeting between a delegation of Lebanese Christians and a representation of the State of Israel. Taking part in this meeting were the prime minister, Foreign Minsiter Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, the chief of staff, the prime minister's military secretary, the chief of staff's chef du bureau, and the undersigned--that is, another person, who recorded the minutes.

During the consultations between the two delegations, a representative of the Lebanese Christians put the following problem to the Israeli delegation: Until now the Syrians have not attacked us from the air, but what will be our fate if they employ their air force against us. We have no way to defend ourselves. We have no antiaircraft weapons. We have no planes. We are simply helpless. One of my ministerial colleagues proposed that we should tell the Lebanese Christian delegation certain things. I saw fit to consult with my colleagues regarding the formulation, and not just about the content. We begged our hosts' pardon. We told them that we had to consult and talk Hebrew among ourselves. My colleagues formed a circle around me and we held a consultation. As a result of that consultation, the reply I gave the Christians' representative in Lebanon was as follows:

"In reply to the request that our air force--the Israeli Air Force--should intervene if Syrian planes attack us [as heard], it was said that the Government of Israel would consider seriously and sympathetically such involvement by the Israel Air Force and that it wuld probably [Karov Levaday] reply positively."

This, then, is the reply to MK Dayan's question. As all members of Knesset of good will, regardless of faction, will agree, these were extremely cautious words. There is no explicit commitment here and we did not do this out of any trickery but because of the responsibility entailed. This means that under certain conditions we would consider it seriously and sympathetically and we would probably not abandon them and would reply positively. This was approximately 3 years ago, and since then not a single thing has happened against the background of this commitment which you, the signatories, term my own personal commitment--mine alone--whereas at the consultation the foreign minister and the defense minister took part, and also the chief of staff--although the chief of staff makes no decisions, It is the ministers who decide. In any event, The prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister--the persons directly involved in this question--consulted and together adopted this cautious formulation.

Mr Speaker, I would like to ask: Is our dignity in this house--which the late Rabbi Nurock called, according to European tradition, a high house--to be thrown to the winds? Is it permissible to write a letter to the speaker of the Knesset that contains an open falsehood, a cynical lie--to accuse the prime minister of making a personal decision, on his own advisement, when in fact he had consulted with two of his colleagues who were, in this matter, the closest ones to the matter, namely the foreign and defense ministers? But this is how the letter is phrased.

Will the house committee not meet, will it not ask itself whether it is permissible to write like this, to be mendacious in an official document signed by the opposition leader and another 30 Knesset members? Is this national responsibility? Is this how a colleague is treated--even if he is an adversary? Is this how the prime minister is treated? [Many voices of members of Knesset heard in background] We did not interrupt Mr Rabin with even one word, remember that well. I shall reread what you wrote: "Let the prime minister explain to the Knesset why he committed Israel, etc. etc., and this on his own advisement." Where was it on my advisement alone? [many voices heard in background, all talking at once]

For nearly 3 years, not a thing happened regarding what we had told the delegation of Christians, and we added--Mr Toledano, do not interrupt me, please. I reguest that you be quiet, I request [words indistinct]. I do not want to argue with you, that is my prerogative. We did not interrupt the previous speaker with even one word, and he had some hard things to say--But they were spoken with dignity, and perhaps that is the difference, but they were very hard words. And we shall [word indistinct]. But let him behave in a parliamentary manner and allow me to reply. After all, I must defend myself and prove that I did not make any personal decision on my own. [many cries heard in background, the speaker pounds his gavel] Do you think that your brazenness and your arrogance add any dignity to your faction? Mr Speaker, with all due respect, I would like a decision on whether this kind of expression used by a member of Knesset is a parliamentary one, whereas I offended no one.

Knesset speaker addresses MK Mikha Harish noting that the MK was heard to say that the prime minister islying] To the Knesset--is lying to the Knesset. [Knesset speaker requests that Harish retract this expression; Harish notes that he can prove his statement]

I have disregarded it. [Knesset speaker calls Knesset to order] Mr Speaker, on 8 April there was a meeting of the ministerial defense committee, which acts on security matters with the authority of the Cabinet plenum. At that time we were informed of the call of the Christians in Lebanon: The Syrians are attacking us with heavy artillery, with tanks, with other weapons of destruction, and are slaughtering us, both in Zahlah and in Beirut. This committee, which, as I said, makes decisions on security matters on behalf of and at the authority of the government, after a thorough discussion adopted a unanimous decision, namely, to dispatch a messenger and to convey to the representatives of the Christians in Lebanon an oral message. Nonetheless, these colleagues circulated a rumor in the Knesset andamong the public that we had given a written commitment regarding a possible operation by the air force--in writing.

I want to assert that a messenger was sent and he conveyed an oral message on behalf of the Israeli Government, and I shall read the message in toto. This is what we said in an oral message--nothing was given in writing. Our messenger told them, on behalf of the ministerial defense committee, as follows: "Stand fast. We will continue to help you directly and indirectly--directly by means of effective arms, and indirectly by putting into action all the diplomatic elements as we have already done through the United States, and the pressure will continue to increase. Secondly, we reiterate our assurance that if the Christians are attacked by the Syrian Air Force we shall help you with our air force. Thirdly, we shall continue to strike at the terrorists; we shall continue to deliver serious blows against them."

The messenger told us that he had added that this decision had been made after a lengthy, deep and thorough series of discussions within the framework of the war cabinet. I [the messenger] stressed the great importance and the feeling of weighty responsibility--which we all felt--in view of the severity of the situation as presented to us by the Christians. I [the messenger] concluded by saying that the Government of Israel had not seen fit to change its earlier decisions not to get dragged into a war with Syria except out of its own considerations. That does not conflict with the assertion that the Christians' security and survival, and the preservation of a Lebanon which is not hostile to Israel, are vital to Israel's security.

I [the messenger], added that the repeated decision this time was, despite the gravity, perhaps easier to make than the decision made in October 1978. Today there is a far stronger Christian deployment, which is crystallized and possesses military and political capability.

When the man--that is, the emissary of the Christians in Lebanon, and his colleagues and in particular someone else--asserted with a degree of bitterness that they could not withstand the loss of Zahlah, which they had not yet lost, I [the messenger] said that the State of Israel in its wars, which have not yet ended, had also lost territories, but had later restored them several-fold. What was required was forbearance and the right perspective. I [the messenger] directed their attention to the political campaign we had set in motion and its results: a cease-fire, and beyond that the fact that world public opinion was on their side, and would that they would be able to take advantage of these assets.

Thus, there was never any written commitment. Rather, a messenger went to them and informed them orally of these wise, cautious, good, positive matters, as we believe, and the decision of the ministerial defense committee was a unanimous one. This was the message we conveyed to the Christians.

I would like to point out to MK Rabin that he said one inaccurate thing--and I am using a parliamentary expression. Sir, do not interrupt me, I do not want to argue with you.

[Knesset speaker calls for order].

You said one thing that was inaccurate. You claimed that throughout all these years we had freedom of action in the skies [of Lebanon] for our planes. Not so. In the past 3 years we encountered Syrian planes that tried to intercept our planes, and as for the whole understanding you related here, there are some--not us--who say there was no understanding, it was just your imagination. And I know who said this, it was a man who knew firsthand what you conveyed, in a certain phone call, to our then ambassador in the United States. And this whole understanding of yours and of your colleagues was all in your imagination. You thought there was such an understanding. And the proof is that we downed 11 Syrian planes that tried to intercept our planes while we were doing the photography that is essential so we can know where the terrorists have a base, so that we can attack it and not the civilian population. We are constantly making every effort not to attack the civilian population. We exerted our influence on Major Haddad not to attack any civilian population, and now we have heard happily that in northern Lebanon, too, our line has been adopted, with both sides agreeing not to attack the civilian population. Fortunate are we that we lived to see this--under the influence of the Jewish people, but we also had to fight against Syrian planes that tried to intercept our planes, and the whole understanding you related never existed.

Mr Speaker, this motion for the agenda contains the opposite of the truth on two main points. Therefore, it should be struck from the agenda.

Alignment Motion Defeated

TA031129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Excerpts] The Knesset has struck from its agenda by a vote of 52 to 36 the Alignment's motion in the special session regarding the commitment to help the Christians in Lebanon. Four MK's abstained, including Moshe Dayan and Ge'ula Kohen.

Following the vote, MK Yosef Sarid said that the prime minister had misled the Knesset. To the protests of the Likud members, Sarid read out the Alignment's motion in order to show that it spoke of a commitment given by the prime minister without the approval of the authorized institutions in the government and the Knesset, and that it had not been alleged that the prime minister made the decision on his own.

After the debate, MK Dayan explained his abstention by saying that while he supports the decision made in 1978, he cannot agree to the decision made this year, which was an explicit commitment to help the Christians. The prime minister returned to the podium and replied that this year's decision had been made against a different background, when the Christians were about to be broken. Ge'ula Kohen abstained saying it was not Lebanon that should be discussed today, but rather tomorrow's festival at Ofira.

Alignment News Conference

TA031252 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] After today's Knesset debate, Labor members of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee called a news conference to press their charges against the prime minister. Shadow Defense Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said he had heard two different versions of the 1981 commitment [to the Christians in Lebanon] from the prime minister, both different from what Begin had told the Knesset, and both inaccurate: first, that there had been a letter to the Christians in April 1981; then that it was only a cable. Only later did it transpire that a document had been read out to them and brought back to Israel. Yosi Sarid said that either the prime minister had forgotten events of the utmost consequence, and only a few days old, or he had not been telling the truth--the same way he had misled the Knesset over the text of the agenda motion, which hadn't emphasized that he had acted alone, but that he had not gone through the proper channels--the Knesset and the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

BEGIN ATTACKS FRG'S SCHMIDT IN KNESSET DEBATE

TA031226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has again launched a sharp attack against West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Speaking in the Knesset, Begin reiterated that Schmidt had personally sworn loyalty to a devilish fuehrer and had adhered to his oath until the end. He was an officer on the Nazis' eastern front and there could be no knowing with certainty whether he had not also been at Brish, in Lithuania. Mr Begin added: When I replied to Schmidt's declarations, I spoke as a Jewish prime minister should reply to a German, to a former Nazi officer. Schmidt and the German press can scream to the skies, but it will make no impression on me. All the Germans are guilty and they compensated the Jews for only a little of what was stolen from them, the prime minister said.

Mr Begin was arguing with Shinuy MK Amnon Rubinstein, who had presented a motion for the agenda on the prime minister's statements at election rallies. Replying to Rubinstein's allegation that he had revealed military secrets, Begin denied this, saying that if the censor had seen fit not to make some of his remarks public, that was after all one of the censor's tasks. There is no one who does not make slips on the tongue.

MK Rubinstein alleged that Begin had adversely affected state security by disclosing secrets, thus setting a negative example for the entire public. The motion was struck from the agenda by a Coalition majority.

DAYAN: U.S. SEEKS STRENGTHENED AL-ASAD STANDING

TA040958 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jun 81 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] MK Moshe Dayan stated yesterday afternoon that President Reagan's formula is to see to it that Syrian President al-Asad's standing is not undermined so that he will not be more pro-Soviet. "The United States will yet demand that Israel cease its pressure on the PLO," he said.

MK Dayan, who was speaking to WIZO women in Tel Aviv, noted that U.S. envoy Philip Habib had not succeeded in his mission and the Syrians had not moved even one missile. President Reagan had asked Saudi Arabia to step up its support for Al-Asad so that his standing would not suffer, thus leading him to move to the Soviet side. Therefore, in Dayan's view, "the United States will not do the job for us."

SIMONE VEIL APPEALS ON BEHALF OF SLAIN PLO MEMBER

TA032031 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Excerpt] The president of the European Parliament, Simone Veil, today appealed to the Israeli representative to the European Community with a request that Na'im Khadr, the PLO representative slain 2 days ago in Brussels, be buried in his village in the West Bank. Khadr was born in the village of (Zibdah) near Tulkarm. An announcement issued today by the Parliament's spokesman said that the appeal was made at the initiative of some of the members of the Parliament.

The PLO spokesman in Brussels has denied allegations that his organization is in any way linked to Ms Veil's initiative.

Conditional Agreement

TA032112 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Israel will permit the PLO Brussels representative, Na'im Khadr, to be buried in his native village near Janin on the condition that four Israeli bodies buried in Lebanon in the territory under terrorist control be transferred for burial in Israel.

This has been learned by our correspondent in Brussels Tzvi Lidar and by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. This was the answer given to the various mediators who have appealed to the government on this matter. The families of the four Israeli dead have also appealed to various governments and organizations regarding the return of their loved ones.

TZIPORI MEETS WITH DELEGATION OF DRUZE NOTABLES

TA032059 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2035 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Jerusalem, 3 Jun--Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori has received a delegation of Druze notables in his office. During the talk, which lasted for more than an hour, the delegation members asked for the Defense Ministry's help in restoring calm in the villages of Julis and Kafr Yasif. During the meeting, the Druze notables stressed their solidarity with Israel's fight for its safety and security, saying that the Druze regard themselves as an indivisible part of Israeli society.

At the end of the meeting Deputy Defense Minister Tzipori thanked the Druze notables for their appreciative remarks about the IDF and the defense establishment, emphasizing that the answer to their appeal would take an active, practical form.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RECEIVES POLISARIO DELEGATION 3 JUN

LD040906 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Excerpts] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, received this evening at the presidency the Polisario delegation currently in Algeria to mark the week of solidarity with the Saharan people. The delegation includes SDAR Prime Minister Mohamed Lamine, a number of the Polisario Political Bureau members and other Saharan officials.

The president welcomed Saharan militants, confirming to them Algeria's firm attitude of defending peoples' right to self-determination. In the name of their colleagues, a number of Saharan officials expressed their pride in the fraternal support they had received from Algeria and in the warm welcome accorded to them by the Algerian people. A Saharan official said: We have found in Algeria people who know the meaning of struggle for freedom. It is our fate to fight, but we do not harbor for our Moroccan brothers any hatred or [word indistinct].

The brother president thanked the Saharan militants for the noble sentiments they had expressed toward the Algerian revolution and said that Algeria, which had recovered its independence thanks to dear sacrifices, fully understands its obligations toward all peoples struggling for freedom and dignity. Our people, who have known the harshness and bitterness of colonialism, harbor respect and appreciation for all struggling peoples. We do not hesitate to carry out the duty imposed on us by the eternal principles of the Algerian revolution. The brother president concluded his speech by greeting all the sons of the Saharan people, confirming to its officials that Algeria shall always be loyal to its obligations and principles and shall always support their legitimate struggle. The meeting was attended by Members of the Central Committee Mohamed Mis'adiyyah, an official of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee; S. Hoffman, chairman of the International Relations Committee of the party; and Abdelkader Bu [name indistinct], in charge of relations with party organizations.

AFP REPORTS BEN YAHIA IN PARIS FOR TREATMENT

NC030920 Paris AFP in English 0856 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] Paris, 3 Jun (AFP)--Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia flew to Paris today for specialist medical treatment for injuries received in an aircraft crash last Saturday at Bamako, Mali. Mr Ben Yahia, who reportedly has a double fracture of the thigh bone, was carried from his special aircraft aboard a stretcher and taken by ambulance to the Cochin Hospital here.

MAURITANIA

COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNS PALESTINIAN'S ASSASSINATION

AB031038 Nouakchott Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] In the morning of 1 June 1981, Mr Naim Khader, PLO representative in Brussels, fell under the bullets of the Zionist secret service. The death of Mr Naim Khader thus lenghtens the long list of Palestinian heroes who have died for the freedom and dignity of their people.

In a short communique, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania strongly condemns this criminal act of which the Tel Aviv authorities will be the first to face the consequence, and adds that this is one of the crimes against humanity which have been condemned by the United Nations and OAU. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania remains convinced that these dilatory and diversionary tactics cannot stop the brotherly Palestinian people's victorious march toward the realization of their legitimate aspirations to freedom and independence. [words indistinct]

FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF NAMED TRANSPORT MINISTER

AB021635 Paris AFP in English 1611 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 2 Jun (AFP)--Lt. Col. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, former military chief of staff, today was named Mauritania's minister of equipment, transport and telecommunications to replace Daffa Bakary, who resigned recently, officials announced here. The appointment brings to six the number of military officers in the Cabinet of Prime Minister and Defence Minister Lt. Col. Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Taya. His government was formed in April, replacing the country's first civilian government in two years.

The return of the military to the Cabinet fold was viewed by officials as a sign of the wish of the National Salvation Committee [CMSN], Mauritania's supreme governing body, to avoid destabilization. Lt. Col. Ould Abdallah was chief of staff in 1979 and 1980.

SUDAN

MINISTER HAMAD REVEALS NUMAYRI ARAB INITIATIVE

NC040842 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0706 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)--Sudanese communications minister, Dr Ahmad as-Sayyid Hamad, who is currently visiting Egypt, has said that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has started preparing preliminary studies for implementing his intiative to close Arab ranks through convening an Arab summit to be attended by Egypt. In a statement published in AL-JUMHURIYAH today, he said that he agreed with Egyptian Transport and Communications Minister Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli Mulayman to increase the telephone circuits between the two countries from 6 to 12, to link Cairo with Khartoum in a satellite network and to use microwave circuits in telecommunications between the two countries.

Concerning the integration between the two countries, he said that this suffered from the slow implementation of projects owing to the existence of many integration establishments and to the increasing number of their staffs. He noted that the most important fields of cooperation which will have the attention of the people of the Nile Valley in the coming phase will be the land cultivation projects, livestock breeding and foodstuffs industries.

SOMALIA

RADIO KULMIS COMMENTS ON SIAD'S U.S. VISIT

LD310934 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 30 May 81 EA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] As you heard from the BBC Somali section, London, yesterday, Afweyneh's [Mohamed Siad Barre's] visit to America has been widely condemned in the British press. Afweyneh's visit started with a cool reception and he was not officially received by any American Government official. As you heard from the BBC Somali section yesterday, Afweyneh arrived in America on 17 May. However, he was received for the first time yesterday by the U.S. secretary of state, Gen Alexander Haig.

The American president, vice president, the secretary of state and other senior American officials were out of the country at the time of Afweyneh's arrival. After a 2-week stay in America under the pretext of medical attention, he was yesterday received reluctantly by the U.S. secretary of state, Gen Alexander Haid.

This has brought diplomatic shame on the Somali community and Arab and African ambassadors accredited to America. This has belittled the Somali, Arab and African masses in general. As was reported by the BBC Somali section yesterday afternoon, Gen Alexander Haig made it crystal clear to Afweyneh that the American Government is no longer interested in the bases Afweyneh was begging the Americans to take. The American Government will not have any dealings with Afweyneh's regime, whose days are numbered and which does not command the respect of the majority of the Somali people.

Afweyneh is accompanied by the so-called minister of finance, Ahmad Addou, who is related to him and who was at one time an envoy to America.

He was also accompanied by the so-called minister for industry, Ali Khalif, who is a relative and was educated in America, and by the minister of mineral and water development, Hussein Abd al-Qadir Qasim, who is very close to Afweyneh and who was also educated in America. Both of them accompanied Afweyneh in the hope of conveying Afweyneh's policy to the American officials.

He was also accompanied by Ahmed Sulayman Abdullah, who was among those officers recently relieved of their posts by Afweyneh. Ahmed Sulayman commands respect from the Somali people and Afweyneh feared that he might cause problems in his absence. Gen Ahmed Sulayman Abdullah is not only respected by the Somalis but many world governments have faith in him. No one has faith in Afweyneh.

UGANDA

OBOTE PRESENTS BUDGET SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

LD012145 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1214 GMT 1 Jun 81 EA

[Budget speech to Parliament in Kampala by President Milton Obote--live]

[Excerpts] I draw the attention to the house to my May Day speech in which I made announcements providing increased prices to coffee and cotton growers. It was stated at that time that the prices of other export crops were being reviewed. I now announce new prices for tea and tobacco.

As from today, the new price for 1 kilogram of green (?leaves) of tea delivered to a processor is increased from 1.35 to 4 shillings. In the case of tobacco, the prices payable to the grower for different types or grades of tobacco are increased by 150 percent. The aim of these increases in prices to growers is to provide incentives to increase production of the major export crops.

Mr Speaker, let me address myself to the question of the value of the shilling which I had earlier touched upon. After evaluating various options for strengthening the value of the shilling, I have chosen to float the shilling as the best alternative in our circumstances. As from today the official rate, presently fixed at 9.66 per SDR, equivalent to 7.08 per U.S. dollar, (? will no longer obtain), that is to say the shilling will be allowed to find its own level [laughter], so the shilling will be allowed to find its own level in exchange of foreign currency.

In other words, the available foreign exchange of currency will be sold freely in the minor markets and the foreign exchange rate will be determined by the supply and demand (? for these currencies).

Mr Speaker, however, it will be necessary to continue the system of general guidelines to reflect government priorities, that is the licensing system for imports, regulations governing travel, medical and payments of other invisible services will continue.

The administrative arrangements to implement the float of the shilling will be announced by the Bank of Uganda.

Prices: In view of the decision to float the shilling, it is logical that prices be freed to find their own level [laughter]. Mr Speaker, I repeat: In view of the decision, it is logical that prices be freed to find their own level with only a few exceptions. [laughter] [Words indistinct] up to now the fixed prices have only benefited a few people in our society including magenodists [black marketeers], smugglers and hoarders.

The ordinary person, Mr Speaker, that is the peasant and the worker, do not have access to both locally manufactured and imported goods at the fixed prices. The peasants and the workers bore the full brunt of the magendo prices. In a depressed economy like ours with a (?pronounced) scarcity of commodities and where the police and customs personnel are depleted, any policy of administered price system is bound to fail. The government has, therefore, found it imperative to allow the prices to find, I repeat, their own level. [laughter]

Mr Speaker, the government has decided that the increase in overall domestic credits between June 1981 and the end of June 1982 will not exceed a total of 3.7 billion shillings. This will require that credit to government should be reduced [as heard] by as much as 792 million shillings.

This means that credit to the private sector will increase by about 4.7 billion shillings. Given this limitation, and taking into account government priorities, especially the program we are embarking upon, [words indistinct] I propose the allocation of credits to the various sectors of the economy as follows: [words indistinct]

Agriculture, excluding crop finance: 30 percent with an increase not exceeding 1.4 billion shillings.

Manufacturing: 30 percent with an increase not exceeding 1.4 billion shillings.

Transport and communications: 10 percent, with an increase not exceeding 453 million shillings.

Trade and commerce and other services: 15 percent, with an increase not exceeding 680 million shillings.

Mining and quarries: 5 percent, with an increase not exceeding 227 million shillings.

Local government and urban authorities: 1.5 percent, with an increase not exceeding 58 million shillings. [passage indistinct]

During the 1981-82 financial year, the objective is to reduce the deficit from 300 million U.S. dollars to about 147 million dollars and at the same time to reduce arrears by at least 50 million U.S. dollars.

Mr Speaker, Uganda expects to draw from the IMF about 197 million U.S. dollars, equivalent to shillings 1.580 billion, and in addition expects to receive from the World Bank 70 million U.S. dollars to be utilized for the balance of payments.

Other expected sources of funds will include: The EEC, West Germany, the UK, the UNDP, United Nations Development Program, Algeria, Iraq and others. The total estimated grants during the financial year, 1981-82, from these sources and the World Bank will amount to shillings 1.74 billion, while the loans will total shillings 779 million. In the meantime, the government is consulting with major creditors to assist the country regarding the possibility of rescheduling, or better still, canceling existing [words indistinct] debts. To date the government of West Germany has, subject to her parliament's approval, agreed to cancel all existing debts worth approximately 60 million DM.

The government is aware that there are people in our society--Ugandans who in some way or the other may have had an opportunity to possess foreign resources, especially so those who during their stay in exile were either employed or had businesses--(?some of) these people might want to import goods into Uganda using the resources that they possess outside Uganda. One problem remains which the government is examining: importation of goods on the basis of the need of [words indistinct] no foreign exchange involved [applause] (?so that) government is still examining and a policy will be pronounced upon it later.

The government is also aware that some of our neighbors have in the past had their foreign exchange laws contravened by our nationals [words indistinct] by having goods imported into this country without payment here in convertible currency. I wish to emphasize to all Ugandans that such transactions do harm to the balance of payments position of our system, of our neighbors since they, like us, would wish to earn convertible currency from whatever they export to enable them to improve their balance of payments position.

One other matter, sir, is the matter of the departed Asians' property. Regarding this matter, government will soon present a bill to Parliament which will govern the acquisition and the disposal of all such property.

Mr Speaker, sir, I now come to the 1981-82 estimates. These estimates (?have taken into account) the effects of the floating of the shilling.

While the government intends to put emphasis on the productive sectors, the problem of security continues to be paramount, since increased productivity can only be achieved if stability prevails. In this budget security services, that is, defense, police and prisons, account for 29.1 percent of the recurrent and 19.2 percent of the development budget.

1981-82 estimates of revenue: tax revenue estimates, 25,291,501,000; development revenue, 1,250,000,000; external grants, 11,862,200,000; total revenue, 38,403,701,000.

Estimates of expenditure: gross recurrent expenditure, 21,421,864,000, less [words indistinct] 479,960,000.

[passage indistinct] Mr Speaker, with such figures, you can understand why at the beginning I said we had to tighten our belts. It is at this stage that I want to discuss with the house taxation proposals for 1981-82. [applause]

Mr Speaker, sir, allow me to present the taxation proposals for revenue measures for the coming financial year. As I said earlier in my speech, the government is determined to design programs and to adopt policies that will enable the process of economic recovery to be realized. The taxation measures I must now announce (?bear full aim) at achieving these goals. (?But) tax reform is a continuous process. We have therefore decided to carry out limited tax reforms. As a beginning this will be continued in the coming years.

(?Tax increases): We expect to raise here 0.9 billion shillings. [passage indistinct]

Taking into account the float measures and the liberalization of prices, the effect of the new taxes on beer, sugar and cigarettes will result in the following ex-factory prices: Beer: 89.40 per half litre bottle. [2-minute break in transmission]

Rex Brand: 105.80 a packet of 20 cigarettes. Victor: 125.30 a packet of 20 cigarettes.

Now Mr Speaker, the honorable members will be interested in what I am now going to say. For petrol, diesel and kerosene, the comparative prices will also rise; for example, depot prices will be as follows:

Seventy-one shillings, 10 cents per litre of super. Mr Speaker, we must understand we are floating the shilling and we are allowing the prices to find their own levels.

Fifty-seven shillings, 82 cents per litre of regular, Kampala [word indistinct] depot prices.

Twenty-four shillings and 50 cents for kerosene--no tax.

Thirty-eight shillings, 67 cents for diesel. Other prices for other towns will be adjusted accordingly.

Consequently, sir, we know that the new rates of excise duty on beer is 350 percent and on the high class cigarettes is 250 percent.

CAMEROON

MINISTER SAYS INCIDENT WITH NIGERIA NOT FIRST

AB032101 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] The minister of state for territorial administration has stressed that the May 16 incident between Nigerian and Cameroonian soldiers was not the first.

In a lengthy interview with the Cameroon TRIBUNE, Ayissi Mvodo recalled that many other incidents had occurred in the past and had been settled peacefully by the authorities of both countries. He cited for instance that last January 21, the district head of Idabato, who was on an official routine tour of his area of jurisdiction in Cameroonian territory, was kidnapped together with seven other persons by the soldiers of the Nigerian Army. Humiliated in front of his subordinates, the minister of state went on. The district head was taken with the others to Nigerian territory and remained in custody. He said they were only released 7 days later, after having been disarmed and stripped of their belongings.

Mr Ayissi Mvodo disclosed that the Cameroon head of state, who had complained about the incidents to his Nigerian counterpart, is still waiting for a reply. And besides that, it is worthwhile noting that (?such) disputes have always been settled by peaceful means by the border authorities of the two countries. Following the May 16 incident, the government received a protest from the Nigerian authorities, demanding that the Cameroonian authorities apologize unconditionally, that they punish those who committed the offense and that the families of the victims be compensated.

The Cameroon Government, in fact, sent a delegation led by the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, Mr Paul Dontsop, to Lagos to express its regret to Nigerian Government and its condolences to the families of the victims of the most unfortunate incident. According to the minister of state for territorial administration, the Cameroon government also suggested that a joint commission of inquiry be created to look into the incident. The minister of state disclosed that the Nigerian Government has refused the creation and the intervention of the joint commission and preferred to seek international arbitration. Mr Ayissi Movodo told the Cameroon TRIBUNE that the position is being studied by a Cameroonian side and that the government would not fail in [word indistinct] to make its position known to the Nigerian side. He underscored that this was the time and place to reaffirm the position of the Cameroon Government, which without ever seeking in whatever manner to spark conflicts, has always sought a peaceful settlement, notably through a channel which in principle, rules out any recourse to force. Such an approach, he observed, was particularly reasonable, especially, as the present case involves a disagreement between two brotherly and neighboring countries that habor huge numbers of each others' citizens.

Asked whether according to the accusation in the Nigerian press it was true that Cameroon had constructed a dam on the River Chari so as to deprive Nigeria of water, Mr Ayissi Mvodo answered that the Cameroon Government categorically denied this allegation, more especially as the Chari, which flows across Chad and partly along the Chad-Cameroon border, does not run across Cameroon. And to whether Cameroon has occupied two Nigerian villages inhabited by fishermen, the minister of state in charge of territorial administration declared that Cameroon has never attempted to encroach on the territory of its neighbors and that the charge of Cameroon occupying Nigerian villages can be nothing else but an (?adulation) brought by those who are trying to engineer a conflict between the two countries and to exploit any incident in their relations.

About the seizure of the Cameroon Embassy in Lagos, Mr Ayissi Mvodo accepted that, in fact, a group of Nigerians ransacked the embassy on May 27 and that the material damage caused to the building and the vehicles is considerable, although no casualties had been reported. He added that the Nigerian Government had despatched its forces of law and order to ensure the security of the embassy, regretted the incident and promised to pay compensation for the material damage. The minister of state said that Cameroon also regretted the incident and that in keeping with its policy of good neighborliness, friendship and cooperation with Nigeria had taken preventive measures to protect the Nigerian Embassy and Consulate as well as the residence of the Nigerian ambassador in Cameroon and that the same measures applied to Nigerian citizens in our country.

Asked about the massive return of our countrymen from Gabon, Mr Mvodo reiterated the government's recent release which stated that the situation was caused by the football match which took place at Douala on 20 May between Union Douala and the Gabonese Club FC 105 of Libreville. He said there was an exchange of blows between four or five players but that the Cameroonian public did not participate in the fight and that the law enforcement authorities only came in to separate those who were involved in the fighting. Subsequently, after peace was restored in the stadium, he went on, Gabonese players were still lying on the turf so as to be photographed and filmed and that they refused to continue the match.

The minister of state said that in Gabon the Libreville daily, L'UNION, was produced in huge numbers and distributed free of charge to show that what was alledged to be the violent treatment [words indistinct] out on the Gabonese players. The atmosphere in Gabon reached fever-pitch and Cameroonians paid the consequences by being pursued and tortured and their effects looted.

Since they considered their security threatened, the minister of state explained, they sought refuge at the Cameroon Embassy in Libreville. The president of the United Republic of Cameroon called on his Gabonese counterpart and urged him to intervene personally to ensure that Cameroonian citizens and their property were safe. Mr Ayissi Mvodor appreciated that this action was respected because in spite of the fury of the Gabonese public, the safety of Cameroonians was guaranteed by the Gabonese Government, which after condemning such acts of violence took steps to ensure that life and property of Cameroonians were protected. The Cameroon Government organized an airlift for over 19,000 of our compatriots, aided by the French Government which placed on Transall heavy transport plane at our disposal. The minister of state in charge of territorial administration said that as far as Cameroon was concerned, steps have been taken to protect the chancellery and the residence of the ambassador of Gabon and to ensure the safety of Gabonese nationals resident in Cameroon.

In another connection, since the Libreville authorities decided to suspend Air Gabon flights to Cameroon, Cameroon Airlines, in a reciprocal manner, has been obliged to suspend its flights to Gabon. Mr Ayissi Mvodo seized the opportunity to reiterate Cameroon's constant attachment, in this case as in that of the Nigeria-Cameroon border conflict, to the peaceful settlement of all problems between states, explaining that this was why Cameroon did not find it necessary to give publicity to these regrettable incidents or to influence them in any matter whatsoever so as not to induce any incontrolable passions and jeopardize the good relations that it intends to maintain with the neighboring countries.

BENIN

COMMUNIQUE ON NIGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER'S VISIT

AB030700 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 2 Jun 81

[Communique issued in Cotonou at the end of Nigeria Interior Minister Iya Abubakar's visit on 1 June]

[Text] In compliance with the instructions given by Presidents Shehu Shagari of Nigeria and Mathieu Kerekou during the friendly and working visit of President Kerekou to Nigeria on 13 and 14 April 1981, a ministerial meeting between Nigeria and Benin took place in Cotonou on Monday, 1 June 1981. The Nigerian delegation was led by His Excellency Brother Iya Abubakar, the interior minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while the Beninese delegation was led by Comrade Vincent Guezodje, minister of interior and public security.

After opening addresses by the two ministers, the two delegations divided into two sub-commissions charged with examining first the border problems and cooperation between our respective administrative and public security officials and second, social and economic problems.

Other problems dealing with security matters common to both countries were also examined. The two delegations took cognizance of the conclusions of the administrative joint commission of inquiry which held a meeting in the Province of Borgou and in Sokoto State 5-8 May 1981. They decided to refer the issue of border limitation in the Beninese Borgou Province and the Nigerian Sokoto State to the Nigeria-Benin joint commission on border limitation scheduled to meet on 15 July 1981 in Lagos.

In a bid to combat our theft, corruption, smuggling and the traffiking of dangerous articles such as arms and ammunition, the two delegations have recommended specific measures to be taken in order to severely condemn anyone found guilty of or involved in such dealings. The deliberations were held in an atmosphere of frank cooperation, friendship and brotherhood.

The leader of the Nigerian delegation, Brother Iya Abubakar, was received in audience by the Beninese head of state, President Mathieu Kerekou. The Nigerian minister has expressed on his behalf and on behalf of his delegation his sincere thanks to the Beninese people, their vanguard party, the People's Revolution Party of Benin, President Mathieu Kerekou and Minister Vincent Guezodje for the warm and fraternal reception accorded him during his short visit.

Present at the deliberations were:

In the Nigerian delegation: His Excellency Prof Iya Abubakar, interior minister; Brother G.A. Mwanze, director general in the Interior Ministry; His Excellency E.M. Ihama, Nigerian ambassador to Benin; Alhaji Masido Ganji, Sokoto State commissioner for reconstruction; Salifu Z. Dora, Sokoto State police commissioner; Abe (Bachin), director at the general direction of topography in Lagos; and L. Tande, national immigration director.

In the Beninese delegation: Vincent Guezodje, minister of interior and public security; Eustache Prudencio, Beninese ambassador to Nigeria; Pierre Bade, deputy director of the Interior Ministry; Narcisse Abebayo, director of territorial administration in the Ministry of Interior; Mr Dicko Najin, director general of the National Survey Institute; Pascal Locovi, geometrician engineer at the National Survey Institute; Daniel (Tonigbe), director of research and planning in the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Economy; Curiana Daguia, representative of the Oueme Agricultural Production Center [CAP], and chief of the district of (Semekodi); (Zimen Mato Dovi), representing the Zou CAP; Ismael Mama, chief of district of Malanville; and Sgt. Maj. Prosper Tagbovi, commander of the Malanville army unit.

Issued in Cotonou on Monday, 1 June 1981. Signed for Nigeria, Prof Iya Abubakar and for Benin, Comrade Vincent Guezodje.

GHANA

LIMANN RETURNS HOME, ADDRESSES NATION 30 MAY

AB311046 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 30 May 81

[Speech to nation by Ghanaian President Hilla Limann on the occasion of his return home after a 2-week European and Sierra Leonean Tour--live]

[Excerpts] Mr Vice President, Honorable Mr Speaker, excellencies members of the diplomatic corps, leaders of political parties, compatriots, fellow citizens: My entourage and I are very happy to be back home safe and sound after packing and unpacking our travelling bags almost every other day since 12 May on a tour which took us to the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Romania, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sierra Leone on the invitation of the governments of most of the countries mentioned. We have simply been overwhelmed by the spontaneity and the warmth of the reception accorded us everywhere abroad, and now by you back at home, right now.

The visits were primarily good-will missions meant to consolidate, expand and strengthen our bilateral relations with the host countries. We therefore took advantage of them to explore ways of intensifying our respective economic cooperations, ventures and activities. Apart from official government-to-government discussions, we also made contacts with industrialists, bankers, chambers of commerce, individuals and journalists.

In all contacts and discussions, we highlighted Ghana, West Africa, Africa, the Nonaligned Movement, the Third World and global problems. Views expressed were frank and sincere on both sides, and we can report that the visits were very successful if the enormous (?sign) of good will shown toward Ghana wherever we have been is any guide. The perspectives held out to us promised a bright future if we can make good and successful use of them. Since others wish us well so much, we can hardly wish ourselves ill. [applause] I therefore hope that we will all cooperate sincerely, honestly and actively with our friends and well-wishers abroad and help them to help us.

The efforts we are making to resuscitate our economy and the determination of all Ghanaians to rebuild our country were sincerely and greatly appreciated. This good will necessarily made our job a lot easier, but I can assure you that no efforts were spared to explaining the peculiarities of our situation and the reasons behind certain policy decisions taken, sometimes misconstrued by international agencies or which our own public considers to be temporarily unpleasant.

In all our discussions our hosts appreciated the fact that the success of the democratic system of government we have freely chosen is a vital prerequisite for steady economic growth. We also assured them that Ghanaians firmly believe that the system best meets our aspirations and guarantees for all of us freedom, human dignity, justice and equality. We therefore asked all our audiences to fully appreciate this genuine desire to sustain democracy in Ghana by taking the necessary steps to assist us preserve it.

Naturally, since political stability thrives only in an atmosphere of peace, economic stability and steady growth, the recovery of our economy became the focal point of bilateral talks, questions and answers throughout the tour. The reordering of our priorities, our austerity measures, the streamlining of the administration of our national finances, gradual decontrolling of the economy and the concomitant new [word indistinct] being created were all understood and highly appreciated. Many private investors have shown great enthusiasm and interest in the economy of Ghana. [applause]

In particular, the discipline we have imposed in the import-export trade and the allocation of import licences, the repayment of short-term debts on due dates and the many other economic policies initiated in agriculture, transport and communications, mining and the draft investment code bill have all evoked much attention and deep appreciation in all the centers we have visited. [applause]

All receiving governments and private sectors now understand our situation better and would wish to assist not only at bilateral levels, but also in international circles. For instance, the United Kingdom, one of our traditional trading partners, agreed to increase its credit guarantees for exports to Ghana and therefore signed a new agreement for 40 million pounds under the ECDG [expansion unknown]. Four major British banks have also agreed to give us 180 days credit cover for exports to Ghana. The German government is also actively reconsidering the restoration of their guarantee (?scheme)--the Hermes--which had been withdrawn following repeated defaulting under previous Ghana governments in honoring our debtobligations. In brief, greater understanding of our problems and of the efforts and sacrifices we are making to solve them have been generated in the kingdom and the FRG.

Our visit to Yugoslavia, where we took the opportunity to reaffirm our convictions in the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, both founded by late Presidents Nkrumah and Tito of blessed memory [applause], was extremely fruitful. Both sides restated their determination to promote greater bilateral economic cooperation and also between all member states of the movement in order to enhance its moral, politiaal and economic strength in maintaining international peace and security and equitable global economic relations.

On the bilateral level, major decisions on greater cooperation centered especially in the agricultural field, namely, the establishment of new farms for producing maize and also sunflowers for edible oil. [applause] To this end, experts are expected to arrive here within the next few weeks to start activities on chosen sites. One giant Belgrade agricultural company called PKB has also agreed to collaborate with Ghana Industrial Holding Corporation [GIHOC] in creating new farms and revitalizing such GIHOC divisions that utilize agro-based raw materials, Energo-Invest, already active in Ghana, is seriously considering participating in the Bui Dam project and rural electrification scheme. As a long-term plan, Yugoslav authorities have also expressed interest in extending the present Takoradi-Awaso railway line to Sunyani[applause] to open up access to Bauxite deposits at Nyinahen, in which they have expressed considerable interest. This also opens up perspectives for the contruction of an integrated aluminium complex.

In Romania, we reaffirmed our determination to be friends to all and enemies to none. We reviewed our bilateral relations and agreed on greater economic cooperation, especially in agriculture where, again, a number of maize farms are to be established within an agreed timetable. Romania has also agreed to resume joint exploration for oil here in Ghana. [applause] We took the opportunity of the visitto convey the heartfelt gratitude of the Government and people of Ghana to the Government and people of Romania for the kind and loving care they took of the late Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah. [applause] We visited the hospital where he spent his last days and paid homage to the meory of our first president.

In brief, our economic revival was our major concern throughout the good will mission. At all stages, we emphasized that the world has talked about cooperation for far too long and that the time has come now for concrete action. We have reestablished confidence in Ghana and should, therefore, take all necessary steps to ensure concrete realization of the projects and joint ventures agreed upon during our tour. As is our usual policy and practice, we met cross sections of Ghanaians resident in the countries visited.

To all of them, we conveyed your fraternal greetings and held extensive discussions with them on the situation at home. We appealed to them to observe the mutual laws of their host countries [as heard] and also to comport themselves so as to enhance the good name of Ghana. [applause] We encouraged students to return home and help rebuild the country. The meetings, held in an atmosphere of re mion, frankness and cordiality, were very fruitful indeed. Your friends, relatives and fellow citizens send you their greetings and best wishes.

On our way back home, we stopped in Freetown, Sierra Leone, to attend the ECOWAS summit where the need to implement decisions on greater economic cooperation in our subregion was reemphasized as a major step toward the realization of the objectives of the organization and of North-South economic relations. The ECOWAS summit also reestablished and completed deliberations on the need for a joint ECOWAS defense pact. [applause]

Once again, Mr Vice President, Honorable Speaker, excellencies, we are very happy indeed to be back home and we thank all of you most sincerely for the very warm reception you have just accorded us. Thank you very much. [applause]

EMBASSY IN LAGOS DENIES ATHLETE'S DEATH

AB031800 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] The Ghana high commission in Lagos has denied that Yaw Sam, a former Ghana football international star and captain of Asante Kotoko, has died in Nigeria.

A report from the Ghana high commission said investigations have revealed the DAILY GRAPHIC report on Monday about the tragic death of Yaw Sam is untrue. The report said Yaw Sam is alive and is at the moment in Kano with the brother, Bernard Owusu.

Kofi Anani, a teacher of Agege secondary grammar school, [as heard] a bona fide brother of Yaw Sam, when contacted, said he and his brother were living together in number 11 Durutayo Street, Isoko, Agege, a suburb of Lagos until he left last Saturday for Kano. Anani, however, said on the 12 of last month, Yaw Sam was attacked and wounded in the head by mobs, who mistook him for a thief. According to Anani, Yaw Sam's wound was completely healed in 2 weeks after the incident.

The high commission said arrangements are being made to contact Yaw Sam in Kano and ask him to return to Kumasi immediately.

LIBERIA

14 NCO'S ARRAIGNED FOR PLOT AGAINST GOVERNMENT

AB031940 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] The government of the People's Redemption Council, PRC, announced today that 14 noncommissioned officers and enlisted men of the Armed Forces of Liberia have been arraigned by the special military tribunal in Monrovia on charges of threatening to overthrow the PRC Government.

The army personnel concerned are 1st Sgt Johnson Gbeadeh, Pvt Anthony Tonziah, Cpl Solomon G. Hunat, PFC Samuel K. Vakor, Pvt Joseph James, Pvt Moore Sonkalany, S. Sgt Issac P. Weefah, Andrew B.K. Johnson, 1st Sgt Lee Jessy, Pvt Eric T. Joe, S. Sgt Robert Kesseley, Pvt Kalo Kalea Duo, PFC Peter Gaye and Pvt David T. Marshal.

The alleged plotters were rounded up by joint security forces while the head of state, Master Sergeant Doe, was in Freetown, Sierra Leone, for the recent Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, summit meeting last week.

According to a tape recording of the proceedings, propagated by the voluntary confessions, the plotters would attempt to assassinate the principal leaders of the PRC and present Cabinet ministers. They had selected their positions on the new council that was to be constituted by them had their plans succeeded.

During preliminary investigations, some of the soldiers alleged that a few civilians were in contact with them. There are also strong indications that the present attempt could be linked with the plot last May, 1980 in which some top officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia were allegedly involved.

Meanwhile, the inaugural newspaper today discovered that the vice chancellor for administration at the University of Liberia, (Dr Patrick Hillan), has been arrested for alleged involvement in the plot. Unconfirmed reports also state that some civilians have also been arrested for alleged involvement in last week's attempted coup.

DOE SUSPENDS SENIOR COMMERCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS

AB040854 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Text] Liberia's head of state, Master Sergeant Doe, has directed the suspension of five senior officials of the Commerce Ministry in Monrovia for time indefinite. Those suspended were Ibrahim V. Sheriff, assistant minister for commerce; Galimah D. Baysah, director of Price Analysis and Marketing Division; Michael D. Yeah, inspector general; and Alfred B. King, senior regional inspector for Grand Bassa County. [only four names heard]

A release from the Commerce Ministry said those suspended are expected to face trial to clear themselves of charges of corruption leveled against them by the PRC committee which had earlier probed into the conduct of their respective offices.

Meanwhile, Mr J. Kiemue Kollie has been appointed acting assistant minister for commerce. Others appointed included Mr J. Kwen Bedell, acting director of the Price Analysis and Marketing Division; Daniel Zor, acting inspector general; George William, acting assistant director of the Price Analysis and Marketing Division, and Lawrence Barnes, acting senior regional inspector for Grand Bassa County.

NIGERIA

SOMALI PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH SHAGARI

LD031012 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Text] President Siad Barre of Somalia, now visiting Nigeria, yesterday held talks with President Shehu Shagari. President Shagari said at the opening of the talks that he was of the view that by the end of the talks the ties between Nigeria and Somalia would have been more strengthened. He remarked that both countries shared similar views on many African and international issues, such as on the elimination of apartheid and the right of the people of Namibia to independence as well as the right of Africans to honor and dignity in the community of nations.

President Shehu Shagari said that during the course of the discussions, Nigeria would seek to show her understanding of the problems of Somalia, and would take note of those points which might be uppermost in their mind. The Nigerian leader remarked that the long misunderstanding between Somalia and Ethiopia in the Ogaden region needed an urgent settlement. He noted that the conflict had caused untold hardship to the citizens of both countries, and that there were now millions of refugees from the conflict who required resettlement and food. Nigeria, he added, was most anxious for peace to be restored in the area.

In replying, President Siad Barre said that the problems of Africa could be solved through cooperation among all African countries. President Barre stressed that the dispute between his country and Ethiopia was a brainchild of colonial blunders, and assured his host that (?immediate) solutions could be worked out on the border issue so as to avoid more bloodshed. He agreed that the conflict had done no good to both camps, and Africa as a whole, but with regard to other African problems, especially southern Africa. President Barre expressed great concern over the delay on independence of Namibia and elimination of apartheid. Tomorrow President Barre will lay a wreath at the remembrance arcade in Lagos and visit a number of landmarks in the city. He will later in the day hold another round of talks with his host President Shehu Shagari.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR URGES RESTRAINT ON CAMEROON ISSUE

AB040742 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Text] The Bendel State deputy governor, Chief Demas Akpore has appealed to the federal government to exercise restraint in handling the Nigeria-Cameroon border issue. He stated at the Murtala Mohammed Airport yesterday that it would be ridiculous for the country to embark on an international war because of the death of five Nigerian soldiers.

EXPANSION OF OIL REFINERY AT WARRI PLANNED

AB040933 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Jun 81

[Text] Nigeria plans to step up the production capacity of one of her oil refineries from 100,000 to 120,000 barrels daily. The manager of the refinery situated in Warri, Dr P.I. Afunetchi, disclosed this to a Soviet parliamentary delegation which visited the site. He said the expansion program included the building of a petrochemical plant.

The delegation, accompanied by the Soviet ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Snegyrev, was led by the vice president of the Supreme Soviet Presidium , Mr Peter Strautmanis. The team also visited the Delta Steel Plant at Alaja, near Warri, where they were briefed on the progress in work by the minister in charge of steel development, Mallam Makele.

PAPER CALLS ON OPEC TO NOT USE WEST AS BANKERS

AB030939 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Jun 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NEW NIGERIAN says in spite of doubts over the continued unity of OPEC members by some Western nations, the outcome of the organization's recent Geneva meeting has shown it to be more united. The paper, however, (?warns members) to watch out for the intrigues of their detractors bent on breaking up the body. For a brighter future for the organization, the NEW NIGERIAN suggests that members should desist from making the Western countries their main bankers and to correct the impression that the organization is responsible for the global inflation. The paper finally advises Nigeria to start cutting back on its oil production to be able to cope with projected increase in consumption by the year 2000.

SENEGAL

DIOUF CALLS LIBYA ATTITUDE TO CHAD 'INADMISSIBLE'

AB301248 Paris AFP in French 0756 GMT 30 May 81

[Text] Paris, 30 May (AFP)--Libya's attitude to the Chadian conflict is inadmissible and unjustifiable, the Senegalese president, Abdou Diouf said in an interview published on Saturday by the French daily paper LE MATIN.

Mr Diouf added that it was a question of interference in the internal affairs of a brotherly country and stressed that Senegal is one of those famous Sahel states which Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is dreaming of bringing together under his leadership. Senegalese people are not going to allow him to get away with it, because it would be suicide on their part to maintain a passive attitude, Mr Diouf also said.

The Senegalese president also reiterated his adherence to pluralism. Every political party will have the right to exist in Senegal, he pledged. I will maintain a very open policy toward all parties when it comes to the great tasks to be accomplished for the good of the nation. President Diouf added that what is essential is that actions take place with respect for the law.

Even though the Senegalese head of state hopes, of course, that his party, the Socialist Party, will remain in power, he believes that the idea of alternation of power should not be rejected.

UPPER VOLTA

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ECOWAS SUMMIT RESULTS

AB020700 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Excerpts] The Upper Voltan foreign minister, Lt. Col. Felix Tiemtarboum, returned last weekend from Freetown where he represented the head of state at the ECOWAS summit meeting. In his interview with newsmen this morning, the minister took stock of the Freetown summit in an interview with our colleagues Samuel Tiedougou and Martin Kabore.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Minister, with your permission, we are going to dwell on the military assistance pact. Can you explain the real importance of the pact to our listeners and televiewers? What are the reasons for the reservations by some countries?

[Answer] First of all, I will talk about the advisability of creating the pact. I think that present and past events in Africa point to the need for such a pact. Let me take our geographic position to illustrate the need for our participation. You are aware that since 31 December 1960, Upper Volta has allowed no foreign base on its territory. We have signed no military assistance agreement with any country. However, the security of every state is a major concern. Every country must defend itself against any enemy--a neighbor or a troublemaker from a foreign country. But given that ensuring defense is very costly, as the saying goes, united we stand, divided we fall.

[Question] Mr Minister, did you discuss the thorny problem of free movement of persons?

[Answer] Yes, we did. It was an issue on the agenda of the ECOWAS summit meeting. As you are aware, in addition to major problems such as defense, there are others such as the security of states. In this regard, security problems cannot be treated with too much haste. They must be dealt with tactfully. It is not easy when the states' territories are to be freely visited by all those who claim ECOWAS citizenship. There are not just ECOWAS citizens among the travelers. Precautions must be taken. One of the thorny issues is those people who acquire citizenship of a member state, for example, those foreigners who have acquired Upper Voltan citizenship. This poses the problem of number codes. All member countries do not use the same numbers for the various nationalities. I believe that in this regard, we need not consider the problem hastily. If we really want to work toward this end, we can succeed, provided that the need to (?sort) things out does not imply restrictions.

ZIMBABWE

REPORTS ON VISITING SWAPO LEADER'S ACTIVITIES

Criticism of Britain, U.S.

LD021010 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 1 Jun 81

[Excerpts] The leader of the SWAPO, Comrade Nujoma, has strongly criticized Britain and the United States for opposing the imposition of mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime. The SWAPO leader, who arrived in Salisbury this afternoon at the start of a week-long visit to Zimbabwe, made these remarks at a news conference he held at a city hotel. Comrade Nujoma said the Western countries should now hold themselves responsible for the worsening situation in Namibia. He reaffirmed SWAPO's stand that any negotiated settlement in Namibia should be based on the UN plan. The plan calls for the granting of independence before the drafting of a constitution.

Later this afternoon Comrade Nujoma paid a courtesy call on the president, Comrade Banana, and the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe. This evening the SWAPO leader will attend a dinner given in his honor by Comrade Mugabe at his official residence.

Bulawayo Rally Remarks

LD031112 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 2 Jun 81 CA

[Text] The leader of SWAPO, Comrade Sam Nujoma, has described Zimbabwe as a shining example to the struggling people of Namibia. Addressing thousands of people of Barbourfields Stadium in Bulawayo this afternoon, Comrade Nujoma said the people of Namibia's just struggle for independence, social justice and self-determination will never be suppressed by any form of power. He said since the racist Pretoria regime assumed the mandate for Namibia in 1920, it has carried out several massacres and continually oppressed the people, under the guise of wanting to preserve Western Christian civilization. Comrade Nujoma said he still cannot understand that form of Christianity which acts as a facade for oppression when the Bible teaches that all men are equal.

The SWAPO leader vowed to intensify the struggle for Namibian independence and to inflict heavy casualties on the (?racist) African troops in Namibia. He charged that the forces on international imperialism and capitalism are still supporting the white minority government in South Africa in order to profit from the mineral resources in the region. Comrade Nujoma however said that Namibia can count on the support of Zimbabwe and the rest of liberated Africa in its struggle against oppression.

He paid special tribute to the former ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] and ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army] forces for their sacrifices in the fight against colonialism to extend the borders of freedom to the Limpopo River. Comrade Nujoma said the borders will soon be extended to the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean.

Accompanying the SWAPO leader was the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, who described Comrade Nujoma as a hero of Africa. The enthusiastic crowd, which throughout the rally changed "one Namibia, one Zimbabwe", was also addressed by the minister without portfolio, Comrade Joshua Nkomo.